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LAFTA REORGANIZATION MEETING ENDS, AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED

PY201703 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 15 May 80 p 12

[Text] The second round of negotiations to reorganize the Latin American Free Trade Association (LAFTA) ended this morning at about 0300. The agreements concluded at this meeting will be submitted to the meeting of ministers, who can make the political decisions required for the adoption of this new framework for the regional organization. That ministers meeting will be held next month in Mexico.

During the final session, which got underway near midnight, a report was read and the new documents reorganizing LAFTA were approved. Paraguayan Industry and Commerce Minister Ugarte Centruion gave the speech closing the meeting, which started on 5 May.

Customs exemptions granted by the Montevideo treaty and the concessions granted through national goods lists, nonextensive favored goods lists and complementarity agreements are modified by one of the documents.

Regarding the aforementioned issue, in the chapter dealing with general aspects it is stated that the contracting parties will incorporate the concessions granted through national goods lists, nonextensive favored goods lists and complementarity agreements into the new integration framework. To this end the mentioned concessions will be renegotiated, that is, updated, expanded or eliminated in order to give trade more strength and balance.

The document states that the results of the mentioned renegotiation will be adjusted to the characteristics and mechanisms provided for the new integration pattern.

It also states that a common list system will be eliminated; the first stage of the renegotiations will thus be eliminated.

In the chapter regarding national goods lists it is stated that the renegotiation should be based on the following issues: A) The strengthening and vitalization of trade channeled through the concessions in a way which is compatible with the different economic policies and with the consolidation of the subregional integration processes of the contracting parties; B) The correction of the qualitative and quantitative imbalance in the trading of negotiated products, preferably through the increase of concessions.

The chapter regarding national goods lists provides for renegotiations between two or more member countries (but not all member countries) which may lead to benefits for countries that signed these agreements. It also provides for renegotiations involving all LAFTA member countries. A renegotiating team will begin work on 15 August and will conclude on 15 December. Concessions existing on products on the national goods lists will continue in force until renegotiations end and the new instruments go into effect. The document also mentioned complementarity agreements, nonextensive favored goods lists, bilateral agreements, complementarity norms and other issues.

Addressing the press, Paraguayan Industry and Commerce Minister Delfin Ugarte Centurion stated that the method of carrying out the reorganization of LAFTA, whether by a protocol or a new treaty, does not really concern Paraguay. "All we request is that the reorganization of the institution be effective." He concluded by saying that there was great progress at the second round of negotiations, as well as at the meeting held last March in Venezuela.

MARTINEZ DE HOZ LEAVES FOR WEST EUROPEAN TOUR

PY192333 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1215 GMT 17 May 80

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 17 May (NA)--Economy Minister Jose Martinez de Hoz today began a 20-day tour through several European countries where he will meet with high-ranking political figures and will give a series of lectures to business organizations.

Martinez de Hoz plans to visit Spain, France, the FRG, Great Britain, Austria and Switzerland. Belgium and Luxembourg may be included in his tour.

It has been learned that the economy minister plans to meet with the presidents of Austria and France and with the prime ministers of Great Britain, the FRG, Switzerland and Spain, and probably with the Spanish king.

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TO VISIT BELGRADE, BUDAPEST

PY210208 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0057 GMT 21 May 80

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 May (NA)--Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Col Carlos Cavandoli will go to Belgrade and Budapest next weekend in response to invitations extended to him by the governments of Yugoslavia and Hungary, San Martin, Palace reported today. The objective of his trip is to discuss bilateral and multilateral political and economic issues with officials of both countries.

ADMIRAL MASSERA TRYING TO FORM NATIONAL MOVEMENT

PY210156 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 20 May 80 p 11

[Text] "My political plan is the formation of a national movement capable of becoming a valid alternative for gathering the largest number of people who, from different positions, would be willing to give the best of themselves for the country." These remarks were made by Adm Emilio Eduardo Massera (ret) just before he left for San Juan to be interviewed by a provincial radio station. He said that the purpose of his trip is to exchange opinions on the national and local situations.

The former member of the military junta indicated that he is doing this in response to a permanent concern, "that is, the desire to be familiar with the real problems affecting my countrymen."

Admiral Massera will leave for Mendoza the day after tomorrow to engage in the same activities he is to carry out in San Juan.

Asked how he defined politics, he said: "As a responsible and consciencious participation of every man and woman in the search for solutions to the needs and problems required for coexistence. In this regard politics require completely responsible conduct. That is why I believe that indifference is the worst attitude of all, because it reveals individual selfishness in opposition to the interests of the community.

BRIEFS

TREASURY DEFICIT--Buenos Aires, 8 May (NA)--The Finance Secretariat has reported that the national treasury showed a deficit of 1 trillion pesos during the first quarter of 1980. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2220 GMT 8 May 80 PY]

PRESIDENT ADDRESSES NATION, SUPPORTS FAIR ELECTIONS

PY191730 La Paz Domestic Service in Spanish 0230 GMT 17 May 80

[Speech to the nation by Bolivian President Lidia Gueiler Teuada, place not specified--live]

[Excerpts] Countrymen: I again address you, encouraged by the favorable signs that make me foresee with certainty that I will be able to fulfill the commitment I received from the nation, that of insuring a political opening and the holding of general elections as a fundamental requirement for the building and consolidation of a democracy.

I address the Bolivian people after having headed for 6 months a government whose balance of achievements has been positive in the face of severe difficulties. There are definite facts which show that the elections have become a reality through the registration of the citizens who will participate in the vote on 29 June (?to choose) the high officials who will guide the future of the country with the backing of the freely expressed popular will.

I find that the difficulties have begun to be overcome through the dialogue and understanding promoted by my government. The deep concern I felt regarding the present political situation was partly the result of a lack of comprehension on the part of certain social groups and of politicians who put the seeking of immediate rewards or the satisfaction of purely personal ambitions before the future of the country, deliberately curtailing the promising prospects which democracy holds for the nation. It is paradoxical that the efforts of the government to strengthen (?a democratic) regime enjoy broad and steady support abroad, while on the domestic front there are some expressions of shortsighted and narrow views which erode the exemplary image of Bolivia seen from abroad.

All Bolivians are aware of the numberous obstacles we are overcoming, which have been unlike those in the recent past under any other government. The mandate given to me by the Congress, however, has been complied with, and the institutional framework of democracy has never been compromised. Today, with 1 and 1/2 months left till the elections, the forces that persist in their intentions of guiding the political process into a blind alley have been defeated by the events of history. It is true that some people are still trying to obtain immediate answers to needs which have been postponed for many years and, against their will, they are joined in that action by others who have the open intention of wrecking representative institutions. On behalf of the real people of Bolivia, who have always given their best response to the demands of the fatherland, I tell both of those groups that I will not tolerate their antinational (?actions).

I know that I am exposed to all types of criticism as a leader. I declare before the people that I have not, as many of my predecessors did, converted the country into the booty of any political group or group of favorites. Neither have I channeled off state funds in order to obtain support or overcome conflicts. (?I have always acted) according to the interests of the majority sectors when directing actions carried out by the executive.

I further confirm that I will guarantee the cleanest elections in the history of the republic. I ask the national electoral court and the departmental courts to respond, without sparing any efforts, to the responsibilities which have been conferred upon them. I also demand from departmental and provincial officials the most absolute impartiality, thus insuring the free casting of ballots and an electoral act which is not subject to discussion.

The party in power is a phrase being ill-used by some people when referring to the actions of the interim constitutional government. It is a cheap slogan used instead of analyzing the facts, an ignoble expression removed from the truth. My government has certainly not had to abandon its political authority or its legitimacy derived from the Constitution and the mandate of the legislative branch by transforming itself into a power based solely on the use of violence in order to be obeyed. Several regional conflicts and no less than 98 strikes, more than 1 every 2 days, have broken out during these last months. The government has resolved them one by one, exclusively by using dialogue. Is this weakness? On the contary, it is the style of coexistence of politically mature nations. Few regimes in this country or abroad can pride themselves of having managed such difficult situations as the ones we have faced so far, safeguarding national unity and the emerging democracy.

I received the presidency at a difficult time for the country. The difficulties have now been overcome, and respect for human liberties is present in our society. No one has been persecuted, and there is not a single person in all of the country detained for political reasons or because of labor conflicts. It has been and will be our goal to restore dignity and respect for ideas and men.

The structure of the political spectrum is causing concern to the citizens and the government, because it may signify a possible frustration of the task of promoting the democratic electoral process. The responsibility mainly rests with the political leaders. I set my hopes on the maturity and generosity [words indistinct] to find a solution insuring the future of our society and institutions. The government is playing its role by conciliating groups and by providing a framework of stability.

It should also be noted that the armed forces and the Bolivian Labor Central, with great openness and full awareness of their historic role, initiated a dialogue, an unprecedented event in the history of the republic, which restored tranquillity to the citizens and, above all, initiated a new era in social coexistence.

Despite the achievements which have with sacrifice been reached, there are still sinister interests trying to weaken the present situation using unconvincing pretexts. At the present time there are, however, majority sectors among the citizens who have a feeling for the fatherland and who again, like the congressmen, have given their support and have expressed their faith in the building of a democratic society.

I express my thanks to the National Congress, the armed forces, the Bolivian Labor Central, businessmen, newsmen, university people and the other organizations of the country for their [word indistinct] attitude and behavior in cooperating to overcome the difficulties Bolivia is facing and for having given their (?contribution) against antipatriotic interests, toward reaching the objectives of the nation. With their help and the determination of the government, I feel complete confidence that the Bolivian people will finally achieve their right to live with democracy, freedom and social justice. Thank you.

EIGHTEEN PARTIES REGISTER CANDIDATES FOR ELECTIONS

PY161445 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 May 80

[Text] Eighteen parties and political fronts registered by midnight for the forthcoming 29 June elections. Several leaders talked to reporters who gathered at the national electoral court before midnight and harshly criticized the proliferation of candidates.

This is the list of candidates, with the organizations they represent, who have registered for the June elections, an event during which Bolivians will try to define their democratic future:

Socialist Party One, PS-1	Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz Jose Maria Palacios
Democratic and Poular Union, UDP	Hernan Siles Zuazo Jaime Paz Zamora
Democratic National Alliance, ADN	Hugo Banzer Suarez Jorge Tamayo Ramos
National Revolutionary Movement, MNR	Victor Paz Estenssoro Nuflo Chavez Ortiz
Tupac Katari Indian Movement, MITKA	Luciano Tapia Eufronio Velez
National Alliance of the Leftist Forces, AFIN	Roberto Jordan Pando Edmundo Roca Vaca Diez
United National Revolutionary Movement, MNRU	Guillermo Bedregal Guttierrez Miguel Trigo Ramirez
National Revolutionary Movement of the Left, National Leftist Line, MNRI-LIN	Abel Ayoroa Argandona Guillermo Riveros Tejada
Bolivian Unity Party, PUB	Walter Gonzalez Valda Norma Vespa de Rivera
National Socialist Revolution, RSN	William Villagra Alvarez Cesar (Muriel) Paniagua
Tupac Katari Indian Movement One, MITKA-1	Constantion Lima Honorato Sanchez
New Democratic Alternative, NAD	Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas Miguel Miguel Harb
Indian Unity Front, FUI	Macabeo Chila Jose Ticona
Tupac Katari Unity Front, FUTK	Victor Hugo Cardenas Isidoro Copa
Revolutionary Socialist Falange [as heard], FSR	Carlos Valverde Enrique Riveros
Indian Party, PI	Sebastian Mamani (Rigoberto) Atahuichi
National Revolutionary Party of the Left Left, PRIN	Juan Lechin Oguendo Anibal Aguilar
Authentic Revolutionary Party, PRA	Walter Guevara Arze Flabio Machicado

POLICE RAID NEWSPAPER OFFICES, SEIZE ISSUE

PY201425 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 19 May 80 p 2

[Text] The issue of the newspaper HORA DO POVO is being seized from Rio de Janeiro stands by agents of the federal police; in Salvador and Belo Horizonte, "the offices of the newspaper have been broken into," also to seize the paper, according to what the newspaper's director, Ricardo Lessa, reported yesterday.

The agents also paid a visit to the Rio de Janeiro headquarters of HORA DO POVO at 204 Buenos Aires Street but did nothing because an employee there told them that he had no issues of the newspapers and that no directors were present. According to Ricardo Lessa, the agents claimed that they were following the orders of Justice Minister Ibrahim Abi-Ackel, but so far they have shown no official papers or orders.

Senator Alleges Slander

PY201426 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRAZIL in Portuguese 19 May 80 p 2

[Excerpt] Brasilia--Jarbas Passarinho, leader of the Senate government party bloc, published an article in the newspaper CORREIO BRASILEIRO charging the communists and especially the members of the Brazilian Communist Party (PC do B) with having "flooded" Brasilia in less than 24 hours with last week's issue of the newspaper HORA DO POVO, which carries a list of government officials who have numbered banking accounts in Switzerland.

Saying that just from reading the list of names published by the newspaper "it becomes obvious that they are all people who either are or have been connected with the 1964 revolution," Senator Passarinho stated that he has decided to send a note to the Ministry of Justice "holding the authors of the infamy responsible and giving them a chance to prove that what they have published is the truth," not so much for himself--although he is one of the persons accused of having a numbered account, but for people like Senator Alexandre Costa of Maranhao State.

PCB CENTRAL COMMITTEE OUSTS PRESTES AS LEADER

PY201918 Paris AFP in Spanish 1426 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 20 May (AFP)--The newspaper JORNAL DO BRASIL announced this morning that the veteran secretary general of the Brazilian Communist Party [PCB], Luis Carlos Prestes, 82, has been removed from office.

The newspaper added that the decision to remove Prestes, who has been leading the party for 37 years, was reached during the weekend at a meeting of the party's Central Committee held in Sao Paulo. One of the members of the Central Committee, Armenio Guedes, has reported that the main charge against the veteran communist leader was his failure to attend the meetings of the Central Committee. According to JORNAL DO BRASIL, Giocondo Dias, 67, and Salomon Malina, 57, are among the successors to Prestes as leader of the PCB.

The conflict between Pretes, representative of the hard line within the party, and the proponents of a more flexible leadership along the lines of European communism, already existed before Brazilian communist leaders returned from exile and came into contact with the Brazilian status quo. The supporters of the moderate line, like Giocondo Dias, Armenio Guedes, Jose Salles, Hercules Correia and Salomon Malina, favor a broad alliance of democratic forces which would even encompass capitalist sectors interested in the democratization of the regime.

Although the party remains illegal, PCB moderates want to hold its seventh congress; but Prestes opposes this because he believes thatthe party has not recovered the necessary legal status.

Prestes does not want the PCB to benefit from a kind of "tolerance" of the current regime, because this would be a sort of compromise.

Prestes refrained from participating in the meetings of the Central Committee called by the representatives of the moderate line and resumed contacts with the leftwing dissidents of the PCB, including the MR-8 (8 October Revolutionary Movement), according to the daily.

He also failed to participate in the ceremony which launched the weekly LA VOZ DE LA UNIDAD, a publication of the moderates who have the support of the majority of the PCB.

The crisis reached its breaking point when Prestes published on 1 April a "letter to the communists" in which the veteran leader called upon the militants to rebel against the "arbitrary and despotic methodology of the party leadership," which he accused of reaching a compromise with the regime.

According to Prestes, by struggling against "leftwing deviationism the Communist Party has gone to the other extreme and has become passive and "is suffering from an obsession which leads it to views as leftist any militant attitude in favor of the workers."

BRIZOLA ORGANIZES DEMOCRATIC LABOR PARTY

PY200209 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 19 May 80 p 1

[Excerpt] The group of labor leaders led by Leonel Brizola decided yesterday to create the Democratic Labor Party (PTD) [Partido do Trabalhismo Democratico] in lieu of the PTB acronym they lost to the Ivete Vargas faction. They also pledged to attempt to reach an agreement with the Workers Party. The selection of the new acronym was made by acclamation by the former PTB leaders after a long, heated debate held at Tiradentes Palace.

The bloc of 24 federal deputies will today request the registration of the PTD bloc in the Chamber of Deputies.

DEPUTY RETRACTS STATEMENT OFFENSIVE TO GOVERNMENT

PY200040 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 17 May 80 p 1

[Text] In a note distributed to the press, Deputy Joao Cunha yesterday retracted the speech considered to be offensive by the government: "At no time did I refer to the institution of the armed forces." Deputy Flavio Marcilio, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies, told the plenary session that he will not authorize the publication of the speech in the DIARIO DO CONGRESSO.

In Rio de Janeiro, Deputy Getulio Dias, also threatened with prosecution, recognized that he had exceeded the limit by considering the Superior Electoral Court [TSE] a "latrine of the executive branch." He claimed emotional reasons for the "explosion of indignation" over the TSE decision to grant the acronym PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] to the Ivette Vargas faction.

METALWORKERS LEADER 'LULA', OTHERS RELEASED

FY210343 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 21 May 80

[Text] Sao Paulo--The leader of the metalworkers, Luis Inacio da Silva--Lula--and 10 other union officials were released early this evening after their preventive custody was lifted. They had been held at the headquarters of the Sao Paulo Department of Political and Social Order [DOPS].

The judge advocate of the Second Military Court, (Nelson Guimaraes), stated in his decision that the preventive custody of the labor leaders did not have legal justification any longer because the accused have families, reside in known places and have jobs.

In his decision, the federal military court prosecutor, (Dacio Gomez de Araujo), agrees with the abrogation of the metalworkers' custody, although he states that if necessary the accused can be re-arrested.

In another decision, (Guimaraes) did not accept the DOPS request for the arrest of five former directors of the Santo Andre metalworkers union and of the journalist (Denerval Julio de Gramont), who runs the union's newspaper.

INCREASED TRADE WITH USSR, EAST EUROPE SOUGHT

FY200338 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0004 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 18 May (TELAM-ANSA)--Through patient negotiations that are being carried out in great secrecy, Brazil is preparing to considerably increase its trade with the Russian and East European markets. The goal set for exports for 1985 is $40 billion (for 1980 the goal is $20 billion) and it may be hard to achieve if the so-called Operation East fails.

This was revealed by a Finance Ministry source who stressed that Brazil's foreign trade with the socialist countries (including the USSR) was very high in 1976, but it fell considerably in 1977 and 1978. Brazilian exports to Eastern Europe during 1976 amounted to approximately $1.1 billion (more than 10 percent of Brazil's total exports).

The project for increasing trade with Eastern Europe suffered an ideological reverse during the last years of the Geisel government, and lately the main obstacle has been the question of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. But Brazilian economic authorities, including Planning Minister Antonio Delfim Netto, are aware that the goal of $40 billion will not be achieved if an alluring market of 400 million inhabitants, $250 billion in imports and a per capita income of $3,200 (the USSR and Eastern Europe) is disregarded.

OIL IMPORT BILL TO INCREASE $500 MILLION THIS YEAR

FY210355 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 21 May 80

[Excerpt] Brazil will spend an extra $500 million on its oil imports this year due to the $2-per-barrel price increase. Iraq, which supplies Brazil with 400,000 barrels of oil a day, informed the Brazilian Petroleum Corporation [PETROBRAS] of this increase today. Qatar and Abu Dhabi have also increased their prices by $2 per barrel. Thus, Brazil will have to spend approximately $11 billion for oil imports.

MERINO TERMS BELAUNDE 'EXTRAORDINARY STATESMAN'

PY210243 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2105 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 20 May (LATIN)--Adm Jose Toribio Merino, commander in chief of the navy and a member of the government junta, today termed the president-elect of Peru, Fernando Belaunde Terry, an "extraordinary statesman."

"I know him. He is an openminded man. I believe that he is an advocate of civilian rule [civilista] in the real sense of the word and that Peru has in him a great statesman," Merino said.

The chief of the navy made these remarks during a conversation with journalists at the end of a meeting with President Augusto Pinochet at government house.

The high-ranking naval officer remarked that Belaunde's statements in Lima regarding his intention of maintaining fruitful relations with Chile and Educador as he did during his first tenure were "highly positive."

"The countries of this region will be great as long as they march together as brothers and as long as they work in harmony. They will be great as long as they ban any type of idea bout war," Merino stressed.

In conclusion, the member of the government junta said that he had met Belaunde in 1965 during a conference of the South Pacific Commission, an organization which includes Chile, Peru and Ecuador for the defense and preservation of the marine resources of the three countries.

NEGOTIATOR DENIES HARDENING IN BEAGLE POSITION

PY162314 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 May 80

[Excerpts] Foreign Relations Under Secretary Ernesto Videla, who arrived from Rome last Wednesday, described the sixth session of negotiations on the Beagle issue as very interesting. Videla presided over the Chilean delegation that participated in the meetings with the pope's mediator. He added that negotiations are progressing and that they have now begun to deal with the most important issues.

[Begin Videla recording] It has been a very interesting meeting, and the mediation process is progressing. In fact, we have now started to deal with the most important issues, but this does not mean that the previous meetings were less important. I have already stated on several previous occasions that all the matters studied during these meetings are also part (?of the negotiations) and that they have an important role in the final results of the mediation. [end recording]

Videla also talked about articles published in the Argentine media which refer to a hardening of the Chilean position in the conversations held in Rome. Videla said that what is discussed is (?not made public), but kept secret by agreement between the two parties. Therefore those statements are absurd.

[Begin Videla recording] I think that those statements are completely false. There is no such hardening in the Chilean position, and we have never adopted a stand such as the one mentioned by some mass media reports. Chile has such a clear position that [words indistinct] permanently and this position cannot be termed as a hard position. [end recording]

CATHOLIC CHURCH COMPLAINS OF CAMPAIGN AGAINST IT

PY162306 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1628 GMT 16 May 80

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 16 May (LATIN)--The Chilean Catholic Church today complained of being the victim of a sustained campaign to undermine its prestige and that Cardinal Raul Silva Henriquez has been the target of violent verbal attacks.

This complaint was made by means of an official communique released by the Chilean Episcopal Conference. The communique states that certain sectors--which it did not name--are "criticizing the national and parish activities and meetings of the church."

The communique further states that the church has recently noted "continuous press reports detrimental to the Catholic Church," and says that "we cannot fail to see in these deeds their authors' desire to create a false impression that there is a schism between the bishops and the Christian people."

The communique adds: "We announce that these attacks are part of an obviously synchronized campaign whose moral and material authors must surely be aware of their responsibility in disseminating hatred, violence and lies."

Without mentioning it directly, the Episcopal Conference made a reference to the latest events which have taken place here in connection with the order for the arrest of the Netherlands priest Teodoro Komberg issued by a military prosecutor [words indistinct] broadly reported on the alleged subversive activities of the priest, who managed to leave the country after eluding the police.

Other high-ranking church officials have also been attacked for participating in a meeting of union leaders who oppose the government which was held on 1 May to commemorate International Labor Day.

JET AIRCRAFT TO BE BUILT DOMESTICALLY, MATTHEI SAYS

PY150136 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 May 80

[Text] Jet airplanes will be built in Chile under a foreign license, Air Force Commander Gen Fernando Matthei has stated. He added that the assembly of airplanes will be resumed during the second half of this year with increased participation by Chilean labor, which will result in currency savings.

He also reported that he had signed an agreement for the production of training aircraft designed to replace the (Mentor) units now being used by the Chilean Air Force. He pointed out that the preproduction stage will be completed in 1980, this being [word indistinct] an essential preliminary to the actual construction of airplanes.

He emphasized that it is entirely possible to build airplanes in the country as long as the project is not excessively ambitious. He noted that the first objective is to build units for the air force, only afterwards will other possibilities by considered.

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH USSR FOR SALE OF MEAT

PA210141 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] Colombia and the USSR have strengthened their commercial ties with the formalization today of an agreement under which 12,000 tons of meat will be exported to that socialist country.

Initially, 8,800 tons will be sent in three shipments at a cost of $2,200 a ton. A new price will be determined for the remaining 4,700 tons.

The contract was signed in the office of the agriculture minister by COMEGAN [no expansion given], the organization which is negotiating on Colombia's behalf and (Provintor), the company which will effect the transaction for the USSR.

In attendance were German Bula Hoyos, [outgoing agriculture minister]; Gustavo Dager Chadid, newly appointed agriculture minister; Camilo Jimenez, economic affairs representative of the Foreign Ministry; Guillermo Plaza Alcio, Colombian ambassador to the USSR; and Igor (Grein), chief of the Soviet trade mission in Colombia.

TRANSPORTERS, MINISTERS MEET TO RESOLVE STRIKE

PA201326 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 19 May 80

[Text] In an atmosphere of suspense, top leaders of the transportation sector are meeting with three ministers, including Public Works Minister Enrique Vargas Ramirez and Minister of Mines and Energy Alberto Vasquez Restrepo [name as heard]. The transporters have said that new means of pressure have not been ruled out. However, they expressed hope that an agreement will be reached soon as was promised by President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala.

Meanwhile, the capital remains totally paralyzed and citizens are calmly going about in private trucks, automobiles and other vehicles or on foot, after completing their day's work.

Large military contingents are on hand to guarantee public order. Despite sporadic outbreaks in the southern part of the city, the violence has been controlled by the government.

Fare Negotiations

PA201427 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 May 80

[By Oscar Dominguez]

[Text] The transportation management has reduced its demands on fare increases and promised to normalize service starting today. On this basis, the government has agreed to name a committee that will seek a solution to the problem affecting the sector in the short and long term.

Currently, after the latest dialogue at Narino Palace, the difference between the management demands and the government offer concerning the urban bus fares is 20 cents. In announcing the creation of the joint committee, however, the government emphatically stressed that any future agreement will not involve a new fare increase.

Labor Minister Rodrigo Marin Bernal, one of the officials who met with the transport management representatives last night, announced that the government will increase the transportation management's subsidy by 56 pesos.

Minister Marin Bernal said this will be the last decree he signs. He is slated to turn over the portfolio tomorrow to his successor, Laureanno Alberto Arellano.

Last night's meeting, headed by the chief of state was attended by Finance Minister Jaime Garcia Parra, Mines and Energy Minister Alberto Vasquez Restrepo, Labor Minister Rodrigo Marin Gernal, Public Works Enrique Vargas Ramirez, Bogota Mayor Hernando Duran Dusan and the director of the National Transport Institute, Constantino Portilla.

'Emergency Routes' Established

PA192249 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 May 80

[Text] Bogota--Ten emergency routes have been established by the Transport Institute (INTRA) to offset the disruption to Bogota's urban transportation system. The routes are being serviced with vehicles supplied by the army, police and other official bodies.

Priority has been given to the densely populated districts of Ciudad Kennedy and Fontibon where the transportation service was virtually nonexistent today. Long lines of people can be seen now in the downtown sector looking for any means to get home after the first half of the working day.

Schools and colleges suspended classes today to avoid further problems. A single work shift was established in many offices due to the absence of personnel. Commerce and industry have been seriously affected by the lack of transportation. Many stores and factories had to close due to workers' absence.

Meanwhile, police and troops were able to restore order in some areas in southeastern Bogota, where unruly groups threw stones this morning. According to preliminary reports reaching us, 4 small buses were partially destroyed with stones by agitators. Approximately 50 persons were injured during the stoning incidents.

The arrest of many agitators who were inciting disorder was also reported. The Defense Ministry and the police reported that the situation is normal throughout the country.

INTRA reported that transportation is returning to normal in the capital. Service is continuing without disruption in the other cities.

Strike-Related Injuries, Death

PA192251 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1546 GMT 19 May 80

[Excerpt] Bogota, 19 May (LATIN)--According to police, one person was killed and two were injured during the street incidents today in Bogota as a result of the strike by transporters, who are demanding a fare increase.

The three victims were hit by a truck carrying workers in a Bogota suburb. The truck was stoned and the driver lost control, sources said. A youth was killed and two were injured. The injured were taken to a hospital, the sources said.

ROLDOS ADDRESSES NATION ON POLITICAL PROBLEMS

PA201922 Quito Domestic Service in Spanish 0224 GMT 20 May 80

[President Jaime Roldos' speech to the nation, place not given--apparently live]

[Excerpts] The president of the republic has expressed his willingness to have a constructive dialogue as a possibility for finding an alternative or path that would avoid the plebiscite.

The president of the republic is constantly aware that after 9 years of dictatorship, after 9 years of a dictatorial regime, one of the main goals of a democratic government is to strive for democracy. Strengthening democracy is one of the main objectives of the national development plan.

We are fully aware of the complexity involved in the plebiscite process and we know that there are certain motivations which are characteristic of all those who [words indistinct] dilatory maneuvers and dealing in order not to attain final solutions. But we have, and always have had the firm intention of defending this constitutional process. It has cost the country so much to reach a legal and constitutional regime; we cannot afford the luxury of destabilizing or creating situations which can lead to a destabilization. On the contrary, together within a constitutional government, we must truly create a government that will make democracy become alive.

The executive branch is open to dialogue and understanding. It has proposed three alternatives to be discussed in the National Chamber of Representatives. In spite of the fact that the executive branch proposed and maintained a plebiscite as the viable thesis, none of the three theses, however, was approved by the National Chamber of Representatives. Even the third formula, the formula relating to the formation of a senate--which the government minister said in advance the executive branch would support--was voted down in the Congress.

An additional alternative was established. In reply to our broad and understanding attitude we received as a reply the convocation of an extraordinary congress, to discuss generalities instead of what an extraordinary congress should discuss, that is, instead of debating specific matter. [Instead, the congress was convoked] to interpret the Constitution of the republic, but without stating the constitutional matter that was at issue; constitutional amendments without stating what the amendments are; reports on several high-ranking state officials without stating what the reports will consist of; political trials of Cabinet ministers, without stating what ministers or the basis for these judgments.

When the priority is to discuss the possibility of a solution to the political problem, the possibility of solving the country's political crisis, what does one sector of the Congres do? It proposes holding a political trial and calling the government minister for questioning, in order to distort the image of the national government--this government which has been, is and will be a zealous defender of human rights. It can never be questioned on the violation of human rights. A mediocre effort has been made through slanted questions and falsehoods to question the [word indistinct] proposals of the democratic government. This trial has no basis whatsoever in legal facts and has [words indistinct] by the government minister.

We have maintained this. This has been one of the basic priorities we have displayed in our conduct of respect for legal norms, of respect for the constitutionality of the country.

If this [respect] is shown, if these proposals of the Congress in these sectors which have demonstrated an attitude of defeat--since as those obstructionist sectors appear to be defeated in the Ecuadorean Congress, and the theses of the national government are theses which can and should be carried forward--assuming all this, perfectly characterized, perfectly stated, I tell the Ecuadorean people that I will not exercise the power to convoke a plebiscite.

The defeat of those obstructionist sectors, of those antihistoric sectors, of those sectors which do not want democratic change in the country, should be stated in very clear theses and statements.

I take this opportunity to tell those who oppose us to make it a democratic and not a seditious opposition because the seditious opposition will be crushed by this government. I also demand that our collaborators, the people who support the government--because there are some who do not support the line or the spirit of the national transformation--do not let the ideological principles which inspired them be sabotaged from within. Immorality and dishonesty have no room in this government. We have harshly and vigorously smashed any cases of this. Ecuadoreans, the road for true national changes has been drawn. The president of the republic abides by its principles and he has said so tonight. He expects that honesty, honor and hard work will defeat those who don't understand the people and who want to go against democracy. The president expects this in order to strengthen the process established in our fatherland under the full powers that the people gave us. Thank you.

LEGISLATORS EXPLAIN REASONS FOR FERAUD INTERPOLATION

PA181553 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 18 May 80

[Text] The examining [interpelantes] legislators have virtually ruled out the possibility that government Minister Carlos Feraud will be dismissed. They have noted that it has not been their intention to ask for removal of the Cabinet minister but to show to the country that certain authorities have committed and continue to commit arbitrary acts.

They said they have proved that legal provisions in effect have been constantly violated. In brief statements, the five examining legislators who have responded to Minister Feraud justified his interpolation.

PNR REJECTS ANY KIND OF DICTATORSHIP AFTER PLEBISCITE

PA191632 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 19 May 80

[Text] The Revolutionary Nationalist Party [PNR], which has held its fifth convention in Quito, approved a resolution rejecting any civilian, military or mixed dictatorship, overt or covert, after a plebiscite.

If Roldos closes his eyes and gets involved in an adventure by illegally using the powers granted to him by the Constitution--the plebiscite--we will fight until we defeat him, PNR National Director Carlos Julio Arosemena said.

He said the party is firmly opposed to the constitutional reforms according to which Roldos would be empowered to dissolve the Chamber of Representatives, issue laws, reorganize the judicial branch and appoint the various officials of the state.

PRESIDENT-ELECT BELAUNDE COMMENTS ON INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS

PY210118 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1358 GMT 20 May 80

[Excerpts] Cordoba, 20 May (NA)--Peruvian President-elect Belaunde Terry, who early this morning had a telephone conversation with the local newspaper LA VOZ DEL INTERIOR, maintains that his government "will be very strong" and that "it will have extensive support."

When asked for his opinion about the recent official visit of Brazilian President Joao Baptista Figuereido to Buenos Aires, which concluded on Saturday, the new Peruvian president said that "I like this Argentine-Brazilian approach very much; it is reassuring for all South Americans that these two large countries have reached a level of understanding and of fraternal cordiality."

"As a planner," he added, "I believe that the projects in the Plate River basin, which are of interest to five countries--especially Brazil and Argentina, are matters of such scope that their consequences are going to overflow the borders of these five countries and affect everyone." "Thus," he continued, "we are observing what is happening there with the greatest interest and with the best wishes for great success."

Regarding U.S.-Latin American relations, he indicated that "I believe that the United States has not paid sufficient attention to South American problems." Anyway, he continued, "I believe more extensive trade with the United States would be healthy because the U.S. market is very interesting for us and reciprocally the Latin American market is very important for them. An increase in relations would bring mutual benefits."

ELECTORAL BOARD PRESIDENT SAYS ELECTIONS WERE 'NORMAL'

PY201508 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 May 80

[Excerpt] Ulises Montoya Manfredi has said that the National Electoral Board has not received any reports of irregularities in the ballot count so far. (The board president) also explained that he has not heard of the drawing up of any [word indistinct] or protest regarding the electoral act, which makes us believe that all has been normal throughout the country, he said.

ECONOMY MINISTER SAYS ARMED FORCES WILL TRANSFER POWER

PY201443 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] Economy and Finance Minister Javier Silva Ruete stated yesterday that the armed forces revolutionary government will transfer power to the future civilian government in order to create a new national conscience. In an interview granted to a television station, he said that this is one of the most positive acts of the government during its administration of over 11 years, an administration which he called very positive. [words indistinct] something more than the economic aspects, he added.

SOURCES SAY MANUEL ULLOA MAY BECOME PRIME MINISTER

PY210318 Lima Radio America in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 May 80

[Excerpt] Sources close to President-elect Belaunde Terry have told the [words indistinct] agency that it is almost certain that businessman Manuel Ulloa Elias will become the prime minister in Belaunde's government.

LOPEZ PORTILLO VIEWS RELATIONS WITH FRG

DW191300 Bonn DIE WELT in German 17 May 80 p 7

[Manfred Neuber undated interview with Mexican President Lopez Portillo in his Los Pinos residence in Mexico City shortly before his departure for Europe]

[Text] WELT: Mr President, are there--aside from mutual relations--quite concrete points you want to discuss in Bonn?

Lopez Portillo: Yes, and I consider these issues extremely significant. In times of crises like now, I believe that countries which have the possibility of pursuing an independent policy can make a special contribution to solving the problems that endanger peace at present. But I do not want to say that Mexico could make a significant move, because we are not a powerful state but a country with firm principles.

WELT: Why will you not visit Berlin on the occasion of your state visit?

Lopez Portillo: The program has been agreed on by the foreign ministries and by protocol. I would not know about any special reason, but I would assume that there are organizational and not other reasons.

It seems that the assumption prevails in official Bonn that because of Mexico's earlier policy of maintaining an equal distance to the big powers, no Mexican president would go to Berlin. Luis Echeverria is supposed to have waived it in 1974, but Adolfo Lopez Mateos was there in 1963, inaugurating a Mexico square but refusing to see the wall.

WELT: Mexico could improve its negative trade balance vis-a-vis the Federal Republic (more than DM1 billion through oil. Will there be any oil unspoken for in the years to come?

pez Portillo: That cannot be ruled out. Production quantities have been fixed as has the share that will be exported. With regard to trade relations with other countries, we do not have so much in mind increasing crude oil exports, but rather creating economic progress in Mexico through the oil. I think setting our sights on special projects will make our way easier than just by selling more oil.

It has been learned in Bonn that the Federal Government would welcome it if the German energy supply could be further safeguarded through oil imports from Mexico. However, contracts are a matter for the multinationals, which have shown little interest in Mexican oil so far.

WELT: Will your country in the future give special treatment to those states which strongly invest in Mexico?

Lopez Portillo: That would be too blunt a statement. But the inclination to act in line with mutual interests cannot be denied. I very much agree with the basic thesis--not so much with regard to the extent, but much rather with regard to the character of closer relations.

WELT: On the occasion of a state visit by Federal President Scheel in 1977, the possibility of nuclear cooperation between Mexico and the Federal Republic was mentioned. Does this intention still exist, and why did Mexico recently ask for offers from three other countries (France, Sweden and Canada) and not from Germany?

Lopez Portillo: I can say nothing regarding the position of the Federal Republic. Our nuclear energy policy is clearly outlined and it is developing quietly. It will be supplemented by the experience we will gain in connection with the (Candadian) nuclear reactor in Laguna Verde. [paragraph continues]

That project was begun at a time when Mexico had little oil and when it had to import it for their own consumption. Therefore, we saw the urgent necessity for opening up other energy resources. Today we can view the situation quite calmly, and at the right moment we can exploit the best tested and most productive technology.

WELT: A developing country such as Mexico needs the help of industrial nations. Doesn't the Third World generally link expectations for progress to the transfer of technology, which can possibly be compared with the suicidal salvation expectations of the Aztecs vis-a-vis the Spanish conquistadores?

Lopez Portillo: With all due respect, this is too far-fetched a comparison. Technology is a commodity available to all mankind. We put the feathers aside long ago; we will no longer be awed by strings of glass beads. We already have what we term our technological self-determination. We know very well what we must obtain from abroad in this field and what we can develop ourselves.

WELT: Please let me ask you a personal question? Do you still have time for your activities as an author and for the German philosophers you studied so much in earlier times?

Lopez Portillo: Unfortunately, no. I write nothing any more except notes on documents, speeches and reports. That is not so much due to lack of time; I could make time. But my office keeps me so busy that I must use my creative abilities for it.

WELT: What do you think are the reasons for the failure so far of the efforts, supported by Mexico, to create a new world economic system?

Lopez Portillo: If one puts it like that, it would amount to admitting a failure which has not happened at all. I would rather say that the project could not yet be implemented because so far the strong countries have not understood that the future of mankind depends today more than before on the fate of the weak countries. If we examine the present crises we can state that all conflicts take place in the poor and weak countries of the so-called Third World. The confrontation of the big powers emanates from the crises of the small countries.

The lesson we should learn from this ought to be pondered seriously: The world cannot be divided into rich countries on the one side which hide ehind the wall of efficiency, and the poor devils on the otherside who have to accept that they are condemned to be poor. No! Today we depend on each other. Sparks that ignite in smaller countries could spread and set the whole world on fire. If one does not take care of the social and economic problems of the smaller countries, if one does not give them the same rights and duties, mankind will continue to be exposed to the dangers it feels threatened by at present.

WELT: You see in the revolutionary development in Central America no danger for Mexico, because your country has already had its revolution. But can you completely rule out that Cuba might someday fan social unrest in Mexico?

Lopez Portillo: No, I do not believe it will go that far. Internal reasons in Mexico speak against it. We are already immune against it. The international conditions promote the process of the Mexican Revolution itself. It is our duty to continue it--aside from the friendship and respect between the two countries and their governments.

WELT: You said you cannot imagine that Mexico would have a president who did not belong to your party, which has ruled for 50 years. Stability is indispensable for a developing country. How can this statement be brought in accord with Western ideas of democracy?

Lopez Portillo: No. I do not rule it out. That was probably a question in test to which I will reply in a similar vein. Naturally the possibility exists. But for the simple reason that I am a member of this party I would not like to consider it. It is as simple as that. It is not a matter of imaginative strength. It is a matter of the Constitution. I would like you to stress that most clearly I simply won't permit myself to strain my imagination that much. But naturally the Constitution permits the possibility (that the president could belong to another party).

Official Visit to West Germany

For reportage on President Lopez Portillo's official visit to the Federal Republic of Germany, see the FRG section of the 19 May Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

PRESIDENT VIEWS CENTRAL AMERICAN, NICARAGUAN SITUATION

PA170436 Mexico International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 May 80

[Text] Regarding the political situation in Central America, President Jose Lopez Portillo has said that it is the social conditions and the behavior of the governments that cause the crisis. If we have to solve the social problems through repression, the Central American problems will increase everywhere, he noted.

In conclusion, he recalled that Mexico is giving unconditional aid to Nicaragua without judging the line it has chosen to solve its domestic problems.

FIVE WORLD COMMUNIST PARTIES MEET IN CAPITAL

PA192307 Paris AFP in Spanish 1053 GMT 19 May 80

[Text] Mexico City, 19 May (AFP)--Representatives of five communist parties from Europe, Asia and Latin America declared here last night that they are in favor of a system which will do away with the hegemony of monopoly capitalism and develop democracy. The representatives concurred on this issue during a roundtable held as part of a so-called opposition festival organized by the Mexican Communist Party.

The Spanish representative, Jose Garcia Messeger, advocated the creation of a bloc comprising all democratic forces to impose a new policy in favor of the majorities.

France's Andre Carrel stressed the need for a democratic and self-managing socialism to ensure society's democratic transformation.

The Italian representative, Renzo Bellani, stated that the new order must be sought by means of a peace offensive in view of the present threat of a world war.

The Japanese representative, Kiohi Yamada, referred to the struggle to abolish the mutual security military treaty signed by Japan and the United States, which he said favors invasion of other countries.

Mexican delegate Pablo Gomez said his party is seeking an alternative to the Mexican Government's present policy by means of democratic alliances with other parties.

NICARAGUAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON VISIT HERE

PA162216 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 15 May 80 p A-4

[From the column "Names and Facts"]

[Text] Miguel D'Escoto, Nicaraguan foreign minister, has been in Panama for the past 3 days exchanging views with ranking Panamanian officials and many of his friends in Panama. He is also circulating a bulletin from his ministry entitled "The White Book on the Case of San Andres and Providencia."

ROYO GUARANTEES HONEST ELECTIONS TO CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS

PA141931 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 14 May 80 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Telegram by Panamanian President Aristides Royo to Christian Democratic Party President Guillermo Cochez]

[Text] Guillermo Cochez
President of the Christian Democratic Party
Peru Avenue, Plaza Porras

I congratulate the Christian Democratic Directorate, through you, for the wise decision to begin taking the necessary steps to register the party and participate in the next elections.

The executive branch reiterates that this democratic government will guarantee your right and that of other citizens to exercise political activities and will respect the popular will, whichever way it is expressed in the next elections. Rest assured that the national government will respect the independence of the electoral tribunal and will make every effort to hold serious and honest elections in which each vote is duly counted regardless of the party or candidate favored.

Wishing you success, I salute you,
Aristides Royo
President of the republic

PDC View of Promises

PA171310 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 15 May 80 pp 1-A, 6-A

[Christian Democratic Party Secretary General Guillermo Cochez 14 May letter to President Royo]

[Text] The local press today published your telegram, which we have not received yet, regarding the announcement made by the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] regarding its registry and participation in the forthcoming electoral process.

We hereby take note of your promise that the executive body will guarantee the political and electoral rights of all Panamanians, the will expressed by the people at the polls and the independence of the electoral tribunal.

However, we believe your statements in the past have not been reinforced by realities nor by your own actions. Recently we were able to see obvious contradictions in your speech of 1 April and the commitments made by your government with the International Monetary Fund [IMF]. Therefore we shall judge the development of the electoral process according to facts and not merely by your promises.

We hereby note some specific actions that could serve as a beginning to your keeping of your promises:

1. The four radio commentators whose licenses you suspended should have these documents restored. You must be aware of the importance of freedom of expression in an electoral campaign.

2. A second positive move would be if you and your ministers would abstain from holding official activities at Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] meetings and offices as you have been doing regularly.

3. A third positive factor would be an investigation into whether government offices are collecting PRD dues and whether government employees are compelled to buy the party newspaper, and also whether government officials are being intimidated if they refuse to cooperate "willingly" with these demands.

Mr President: If these suggestions are accepted, as well as others of the same nature, your promise would gain the credibility desired by all responsible Panamanians so that we will not only say things in this country but do them.

PANAMENIST PARTY OFFICIAL TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS

PA192312 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 19 May 80 pp 1, 14

[Letter from Enrique J. Chevallier Q., president of the Veraguas Provincial Directorate of the Panamenist Party, to Arnulfo Arias M., leader of the party, dated 16 May]

[Text] Arnulfo Arias M., leader of the Panamenist Party

Panama
Dear Mr Arias:

Allow me to reiterate my respects and best wishes for your health.

I also wish to inform you that I have decided to run for representative of the Province of Veraguas as an independent candidate in the coming elections.

I must say that I have discussed this matter with fellow partisans who fraternally have encouraged me while I was in prison because of my unstinting loyalty to the party.

I have decided to participate in the coming elections because I am convinced that non-participation is a mistake which is detrimental to our party and reflects the way of thinking of interested persons who have been influencing our top leaders, who in turn have not been able to gauge the opinion of the great majority of the party.

Furthermore, I believe we are experiencing the result of our mistake in joining in the so-called FRENO [National Opposition Front], along with groups and persons whose friendship with Panamenism and with you, our national leader, has been feigned and insincere.

It is obvious that in the FRENO these groups and gentlemen have only sought fame and popular support which they have never enjoyed.

I have reason to believe that these persons and groups have been leading us to this situation and have even influenced the behavior of some of our ranking leaders who, although they are really qualified to run their business and personal finances, lack the ability to direct the Panamenist Party, popular par excellence, especially when they have to face those in the FRENO leadership who are skilled demagogues trained abroad.

I have already learned of the intentions of these gentlemen who are planning to have an electoral feast with the members of the Panamenist Party as if we were errant sheep.

The Panamenist Party, Mr Arias, is the highest expression of the natural rebelliousness which characterizes the Panamanian people. My membership in this party summarizes the history of my patriotic life; for party causes I have spared no effort and have even sacrificed personal interests, affecting my own family.

I hope you will understand that I cannot and must not sit back and do nothing with regard to this situation. Therefore, I will openly and publicly oppose any decision or measure which our national directors may adopt, and with the support of my all-time fellow partisans I will continue onward in the certainty that we will succeed so that Panamenism may come out with flying colors in the great struggle for a better Panama.

Yours truly,
Enrique J. Chevallier Q.,
Cedula No 8-45-107, President of the Veraguas Provincial
Directorate

GUERRILLA LEADER SPADAFORA VOWS TO CONTINUE FIGHTING

PA202136 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 19 May pp 1, 14

[By Carlos J. Nunez L.]

[Text] During the coming week I will be fighting in other Latin American areas with other revolutionaries following the mandate of Bolivar, San Martin, Sandino and Victoriano Lorenzo, Dr Hugo Spadafora said at an event held Saturday in "La Negrita" Camp, which served as the headquarters of Major General Victoriano Lorenzo and his peasant forces during the thousand days war.

The popular event was organized by the El Pajonal Community Board, headed by distinguished representative I. Sucre, and the popular University of Cocle, presided over by Professor Olmedo Domingo, to honor General Lorenzo on the 70th anniversary of the treasonous execution of this distinguished Panamanian.

Guerrilla commander Spadafora clearly and categorically stated: "We are preparing contingents of Latin American youths to fight next to our brothers who are the victims of fascism and repression."

In his speech Spadafora made no reference to a communique issued by the national government stating that "Spadafora's activities have no kind of government support" and that he undertook activities on his own initiative.

Nevertheless, Dr Spadafora, after clarifying that he did not want to fall into obsequious flattery, paid special tribute to General Omar Torrijos Herrera for providing the fundamental guarantee that the Panamanian political process will continue on the path of liberation.

On another subject, Panama's former [deputy] health minister asserted the need to give more aid to the peoples who live under the most unjust exploitation. Spadafora stated that times have changed and therefore there is no reason to conceal the support given to brotherly peoples.

COSTA RICA

TAIWANESE FOREIGN MINISTER DELIVERS MESSAGE TO CARAZO

PA201632 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] Taiwanese Foreign Minister Chu Fu-sung delivered a special message from President Chiang Ching-kuo to President Rodrigo Carazo during a meeting held at noon yesterday. In the message, the Taiwanese president tells Carazo that the two countries have similar goals and defend the same struggles. For this reason, he says, with the rapprochement of trade and diplomatic relations we are contributing to development and democracy.

EL SALVADOR

JUNTA MEMBER TO FLY TO WASHINGTON 21 MAY

PA210356 Paris AFP in Spanish 0227 GMT 21 May 80

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 20 May (AFP)--Antonio Morales Ehrlich, member of the Salvadoran Government junta, said here today that the Salvadorans "want to live in peace and find solutions to their problems because they are tired of talking about dead persons found around the corner."

Morales, who together with Napoleon Duarte, represents the Christian Democracy on the government junta said that in spite of the activities by the extreme right and left, he personally believes that "the government is gradually finding the way to install a true democracy."

Morales said that the government is consolidating itself and added that "the left must use force in order to recruit followers, while the right has embraced terrorism in order to attack those whom it believes to be its political enemies."

Morales was also skeptical about the announcement made by a leftist group that it would begin the call to "popular rebellion" this week in El Salvador and said that this is just a maneuver to call attention to itself.

Morales Ehrlich will fly to Washington tomorrow, Wednesday, heading a Christian Democratic Party [PDC] delegation to participate in an international Christian Democracy meeting to analyze the Central American situation, it was revealed here.

Meanwhile, a report spread by leftist groups reports heavy fighting in eastern El Salvador which has caused over 1,000 casualties from the two sides in conflict. This report was emphatically denied by an official source consulted on the matter.

OPPOSITION GROUPS CONTINUE ATTACKS ON GOVERNMENT

Garrisons Attacked

PA201355 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1153 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] San Salvador, 20 May (ACAN-EFE)--Several Salvadoran garrisons have been attacked by alleged terrorists in the past 24 hours in various parts of the country, the authorities reported here yesterday. More than 15 people have been killed as a result of political violence during the last 24 hours also, reports received here say.

Meanwhile a communique released by the underground Peoples Liberation Forces (FPL) says says the FPL has killed about 55 people in the last 15 days. Forty of the victims are reportedly members of the outlawed Nationalist Democratic Organization (ORDEN), a rightwing paramilitary group founded in the 1960's to fight communist infiltration in the countryside.

ORDEN was disbanded by the incumbent government in November 1979 but it has been brought back to life by the rightwing as the Nationalist Democratic Front. The other 15 vicims of the Marxist-Leninist guerrillas are reportedly security corps and army members including a lieutenant.

No official source confirmed during the day the alleged deaths of over 100 perople, maybe 200, in armed incidents over the weekend in the north. The report published by Salvadoran morning papers yesterday attributed an item saying that over 100 leftwing group members had been killed in armed confrontations with the authorities to "generally well informed sources."

Other reports attributed to the government were also confirmed officially. These reports said that about 3,000 leftwing mercenaries from various countries are being trained in a place called "El Tamarindo," Chinandega, Nicaragua. The area borders the Gulf of Fonseca accross from El Salvador and supposedly the alleged mercenaries will set off from Puerto Morazan in Nicaraguan for El Salvador to join the ranks of the armed extreme leftwing groups.

These reports, attributed by the Salvadoran morning papers to government sources, were disclosed just a few days after Col Jaime Abdul Gutierrez, member of this ruling junta, said in Guatemala that the Salvadoran guerillas have military support from Cuba and Nicaragua.

Union representatives of the Rio Lempa Hydroelectric Company last night told ACAN-EFE that they are not going to stop supplying the nation with power again. The decision would supposedly be made by the union due to the kidnapping and ensuing death of a member in a city in this country. The company is the public institution that supplies the nation with power. On two previous occasions, the union members have staged strikes that greatly harmed industry and commerce. The last one was staged about 4 weeks ago after a union member was killed.

In turn four teachers have been killed in the last 3 days by alleged rightwing terrorists. The 4 deaths bring the total of dead teachers to more than 45 in the last 5 months. The national Association of Salvadoran Educators has staged several labor strikes as a result of the killings.

Radio Stations Briefly Occupied

PA202046 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1951 GMT 20 May 80

[By Adrian Aldana]

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 20 May (LATIN)--Political violence took six new victims, while a number of terrorist explosions occurred in this capital and other towns on the eve of a general strike which threatens to paralyze this convulsed country.

A police report indicated that three persons presumed to be guerrillas were killed early this morning after a shootout in Guadalupe neighborhood in the neighboring town of Ilopango.

Another youth was shot to death this morning near Centenario Park in the downtown area of this capital, and a man was found dead with several bullet wounds inside his automobile in Colon, 21 km west of here.

The authorities reported that a peasant was taken from his home by hooded men and shot to death in the town of San Jose de la Montana, Zacatecoluca Department.

At noon today, members of the People's Revolutionary Bloc (BPR) occupied two radio stations in this capital and broadcast protest songs, but according to the police, the recordings were stopped a few minutes later by the employees.

The occupied radio stations were Radio Cadena Central and 1080. The occupations occurred shortly after policemen had come to the studios to check for explosive devices.

Authorities: Situation 'Normal'

PA210120 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2220 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] San Salvador, 20 May (ACAN-EFE)--According to reports from the authorities, the situation throughout El Salvador is normal. There had been rumors that today would be the beginning of a supposed "final offensive" of the Marxist groups which seek political power through armed means. The public security authorities said that patrols to protect the honest population are being carried out as usual and that the banks, commerce, industry and education centers have operated peacefully.

They added that the rumors are promoted by irresponsible persons in order to create unrest in the country, whose revolutionary government junta is promoting a series of changes for the common welfare.

Recently Juan Chacon, the secretary general of the People's Revolutionary Bloc, criticized the Marxist United Popular Action Front for urging its followers to begin a large-scale insurrection during this month of May.

The Salvadoran Armed Forces reaffirmed today that they are ready to defend the Constitution and the democratic system in El Salvador.

LP-28 DENOUNCES 'IMPERIALIST' INFILTRATION OF LEFT

PA192358 San Salvador API NEWS in Spanish Vol II No 91 pp 863, 864

[Apparent communique by 28 February Peoples Leagues--no further identification possible--date not given]

[Text] San Salvador, 17 May (API NEWS)--The 28 February Peoples League [LP-28] claim that imperialism is apparently planning a leftist coup d'etat in El Salvador, the real objective of which--after gaining control of the popular struggle by getting close to some democratic and popular sectors and internally strengthening the oligarchy to adequately prepare it for the confrontation--is to militarily defeat the revolutionary forces.

It is reported that the maneuver is based on the increase of the popular struggle, the imminence of the final offensive of the revolutionary forces and imperialism's fear of losing its political stability in the area.

"In a maneuver destined to stop the victorious advance of the masses toward the attainment of their definite liberation, imperialism has been promoting the maneuver of reform and repression since 15 October with the support of the oligarchy, the reaction and the Christian Democratic Party [PDC].

"However, this maneuver has been weakened since its inception by the combative action of the masses and their popular organizations in answer to the maneuver which attempts to obtain control of the struggle and to disrupt the popular movements.

"It is precisely the combativeness of the masses which has day by day weakened the imperialist maneuver, forcing imperialism to adopt an alternative: a junta composed of the military and the rightist PDC who would again promote the reform and repression scheme, increasing demagoguery by decreeing an agrarian reform (without touching the structures), nationalizing the banks (which benefits the oligarchy) and amending the rental law with the goal of destroying the small production sector by accompanying it with a violent repression of the people."

This maneuver grew progressively weaker not only due to the struggle in the streets and in the production centers, but due to the strengthening of the revolutionary left and its advances in unity, in addition to a worsening of the economic crisis which is bringing greater misery to the masses.

"For U.S. imperialism it is clear that the junta is incapable of stopping the irrepressible advance of the Salvadoran revolution. Imperialism right now is desperately supporting the junta because it can still serve as a basis for a new plan.

"It is evident that at the present time the revolutionary process is attaining its highest point, and the final offensive of the revolutionary forces is imminent. This, plus the worsening of the economic crisis which is manifesting itself in the uncontrollable increase in the prices of staples, the imminent devaluation of the colon, the impossibility of planting crops, the increase in the number of labor conflicts, the impoverishment of the middle classes, the contradictions within the army, and others generate a situation favorable for the preparation of the popular offensive. The prospects of a popular struggle victory are excellent through radical confrontation, which will leave no margin for imperialist maneuvers or negotiations, because the military defeat will be complete.

"It is the danger of threatening its political stability in the area which is worrying imperialism and is leading it to preparing a coup d'etat which would have the special characteristic of an apparent turn to the left.

"It would try to win over some democratic and popular sectors after promoting the modernization of capitalism to permit it to expand its range for maneuvers, in which it could give participation to some leftist sector, but maintain intact the whole structure of capitalist power, the (army).

The purpose of this coup d'etat is to internally strengthen the oligarchy and to adequately prepare for the confrontation. That is, to gain control of the struggles to subsequently inflict a military defeat on the revolutionary forces.

"The LP-28 appeals to the Salvadoran people, their popular organizations and the democratic sectors to remain alert against this new maneuver and to realize the following tasks:

To massively incorporate ourselves into the popular movement; to denounce this maneuver which seeks to gain control of the revolutionary process; to incorporate ourselves into the popular militias and military preparedness for the final offensive.

"Let us struggle to strengthen our unity since only unity and the coordination of the revolutionary left can lead us to militarily defeat imperialism, Christian Democracy and the oligarchy."

[Signed] LP-28, San Salvador, May 1980, Vol II, No 91.

CAPTURED SUBVERSIVES REPORT LOW MORALE IN RANKS

PA200213 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 19 May 80 pp 8, 23

[Excerpt] Several individuals captured on the border have reported demoralization in the ranks of the subversives. In this respect it has been reported that all attempts made by the subversive individuals at the border to enter the country with their famous brigades have been repulsed by the regular army which, they said, is firmly in place along the border with Honduras.

As a result of this lack of unity and the demoralization within the subversive groups on the border, many of their members have decided to give themselves up to the Honduran Army. On Saturday it was reported from Tegucigalpa that several members of the People's Revolutionary Bloc had given themselves up to the Honduran military authorities.

There have also been reports of purges in the subversive ranks against those who have not responded to the appeals. The subversive proselytes, they said, have tried to recruit intellectuals and, because these have not responded, they have been purged for what is called deception of their principles. Some persons believe that the majority of the persons found dead without apparent motive could have been victims of those purges, because they somehow ridiculed the subversive appeal.

Nevertheless,it has been noticed that the majority of the homes in San Salvador are stocking up on food and medicines in answer to a subversive announcement that a national conflagration will begin on 23 May, which some military experts do not consider possible due to poor morale in the subversive ranks.

It has also been reported that surgical equipment is in short supply and that this equipment has been taken to other clinics established with other names but which in reality, it has been affirmed, are preparing to care for those who may be wounded during the possible events announced in San Salvador.

Last week one of the representatives of the subversion groups who toured South America spoke clearly of the offensive prepared in El Salvador and asked the Andean Pact countries to stop the aid which they have been giving to the government junta.

It is well known that a labor strike has been planned for this week, which could be related to the announcements by the subversive groups.

UNIONS STRIKE TO PROTEST REPRESSION BY JUNTA

PA202319 San Salvador API NEWS in Spanish 20 May 80 Vol II No 92 p 870

[Text] San Salvador, 20 May (API NEWS)--Several labor organizations, members of the Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation [FENASTRAS], began labor strikes yesterday protesting repression. The railroad workers union is among those protesting.

The power workers have been discussing whether to go on strike. If they strike the country would be without power for some 2 hours. This strike would protest the murder of worker Raul Cruz, a union member.

FENASTRAS Secretary General Hector Bernabe Recinos said that this would be the first step and that, later, a general strike would be called throughout the country as part of a peoples offensive against the government junta and fascism in general.

However, so far, only FENASTRAS has called for a strike while other labor federations are discussing the possibility of supporting the strike, although in a limited manner, by protesting repression alone.

Recinos said that the FENASTRAS has a membership of some 50,000 industrial workers in key branches of the Salvadoran economy such as power production, fishing, transportation, ports, food industry and others.

He also said that there is a possibility that the strike begun by railroad workers could be for an indefinite period and as such could be the beginning of a general political strike that "will be decided according to the emerging conditions and according to the people's support."

The power workers strike, which is probable, could be called between yesterday and today [as received] protesting the murder of worker Raul Cruz who was captured and murdered by the fascist death squadron.

Some labor organizations, including the Unified Confederation of Salvadoran Workers, do not seem willing to support a general political strike, but this possibility has not been discarded, Manuel Franco, spokesman of the Nationalist Democratic Union said.

GUATEMALA

GUATEMALA, UNITED KINGDOM TO RESUME TALKS ON BELIZE

PA170330 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 16 May 80

[Text] Foreign Minister Rafael Castillo Valdez and Nicholas Ridley, external affairs minister of the British Commonwealth, along with a team of advisers, will meet in Bermuda on 19 May to resume talks on Belize. The British delegation includes two Belize Government officials. The announcement was made simultaneously in London and in Guatemala City.

List of Officials To Attend

PA170337 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 17 May 80

[Text] The Guatemalan Foreign Ministry has announced that the date for the resumption of talks on Belize have been set. The Guatemalan and British Government have been holding these talks in stages.

Foreign Minister Castillo Valdez made the announcement of this important step which has been taken to seek a solution to the very old Belize issue. In expanding the report, Castillo Valdez announced the list of officials who will accompany him in the trip to discuss the Belize case with the British. These officials are: Army Chief of Staff Gen Rene Mendoza Palomo; Dr Herrera Ibarguen; Dr Jorge Tulio Escobedo; Dr Jaime [name indistinct], first vice president of the Congress; Napoleon Alfaro, chairman of the Congress Foreign Relations Commission and Manuel Eduardo Rodriguez, head of Belizean affairs at the Foreign Ministry. The talks will start on 19 May in the Rivas Islands. The talks, which had reached an impasse, were suspended in New York City in October 1979. They are being resumed with this meeting.

GUATEMALAN, SALVADORAN FOREIGN MINISTERS ISSUE DECLARATION

PA161942 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 16 May 80

[Text] An official high-level delegation from the Republic of El Salvador headed by Col Jaime Abdul Gutierrez, member of the Salvadoran Revolutionary Government junta, and Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena visited Guatemala on 14 May. It held talks with Guatemalan President Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia and Foreign Minister Rafael Eduardo Castillo Valdez and reviewed matters of mutual interest in a cordial and fraternal manner.

As a result, the foreign ministers issued the following declaration:

They reiterated the firm determination of their governments to continue promoting the development of democracy in their countries as a framework for their political, economic and social well-being. In their statements about foreign policy, they agreed to conduct their fraternal relations within the framework of their common integration ideals. They reiterated, as a principle of relations between themselves and in regard to other states' the principle of respect for sovereignty, the principle of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other states and the rules of friendly coexistence.

They agreed to [word indistinct] all necessary support to the meetings of foreign ministers of Central America--institutionalized at the meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica--in order to be able to achieve (?through) positive goals the traditional aspiration of reestablishing the Republic of Central America.

Within this context, they concurred on the urgent need to reactivate the Organization of Central American States (OCAS) and, to this effect, to provide it with the effective and adequate means to deal with the region's current problems so they may be a contributing factor in its efforts to attain higher levels of well-being for their peoples.

They expressed their satisfaction over the fact that the linking of the electric systems of the two countries--from which so many mutual benefits are expected to be derived--is about to be carried out. To this effect, they pledged to exchange the respective ratification instruments within a short time at the OCAS, where they will be deposited.

In order to implement the decision of the two governments to establish joint diplomatic and consular missions in countries and regions suitable to their interests, they agreed to open talks on the technical level to formulate the juridical bases required to do so. They concurred on the need to analyze within a short time the advisability of establishing a land link to facilitate the transportation of goods between the ports of Santo Tomas de Castilla and Acajutla. They discussed the proposal of the Guatemalan president to build an inter-Central American railroad network to facilitate the free transit of persons and goods in the region. They agreed to request the respective commissions to expedite the preparation of the work related to the delimitation of their maritime boundaries.

The Salvadoran foreign minister expressed his government's full and resolute support for Guatemala's position that the Belize question be discussed in direct negotiation among the parties concerned and expressed the hope that a just settlement satisfactory to the two parties will be reached soon.

During the course of the talks, the desire to strengthen even further the ties of friendship and solidarity, which fortunately exist between the two brotherly countries prevailed.

Issued in Guatemala City on 14 May 1980.

VICTIMS INCREASE AS WAVE OF VIOLENCE CONTINUES

PA202139 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1535 GMT 20 May 80

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 20 May (ACAN-EFE)--It was reported today from Totonicapan, in western Guatemala, that Juan Calderon Tulnil, president of the local high school students association who is studying to be a teacher, was kidnapped.

According to the report, the student leader was kidnapped while leaving the school building after attending a commemorative meeting. The perpetrators were armed individuals who were driving a car without a license plate.

Likewise, in the eastern city of El Progreso armed men kidnapped businessman Nicolas Alvarez Oliva. It was also reported that three bodies were found in San Marcos next to a blanket bearing the acronym of the underground leftist Armed Peoples Organization (ORPA).

The two most serious attacks occurred in Coatepeque, where armed men stole approximately $9,000 at a soft drink distributor, and in San Marcos, where another armed group stormed the "Barranca Honda" Farm and stole a large amount of cash.

Contepeque and San Marcos are in the western part of the country.

According to the police report the total number of dead amounts to 14, which must be added to the 24 persons killed between last Saturday and Sunday.

Anticommunist Front Ready

PA192345 Guatemala City Radio Mundial in Spanish 1416 GMT 19 May 80

[Distributed by Inter-Central American Radio Organization]

[Text] A demonstration was held yesterday in the capital of Zacapa Department. It was called by the Northeastern Anticommunist Front and was attended by large numbers of peasants and other people of the departments of Izabal, El Progreso, Chiquimula and Zacapa.

Among the speakers at the meeting was Roberto Salvador Cuellar, president of the 6th division of the Supreme Court of Justice. Speaking to the demonstrators, who filled three streets in Zacapa, the magistrate said, among other things: We are ready to answer the call and to take up arms. We trust the army will respond to its commitment.

The demonstrators listened to speakers who are members of the Northeastern Anticommunist Front and who professed to be prepared to take up weapons to defend Guatemala from international communism. It was estimated that about 1,600 vehicles were used to bring in the demonstrators, as follows: 1,100 pickup trucks, 87 buses, 305 trucks and 146 privately owned automobiles. The demonstration was staged in support of General Lucas Garcia's government and the army. Some posters stated: The army guarantees our bread. Others said: With the army we will defeat communism.

The demonstrators distributed leaflets criticizing supporters of the Fidel Castro regime and Guatemalan leftist organizations, as well as international communism.

HONDURAS

ARMED FORCES SPOKESMAN DENIES CHANGES IN HIGH COMMAND

PA202003 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1839 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 20 May (ACAN-EFE)--The public relations office of the Honduran Armed Forces denied today that there will soon be a change in the high command.

Maj Julio Armando Pavon denied this to ACAN-EFE this morning after he was queried on the front page headline of the newspaper TIEMPO entitled: "Changes in the Armed Forces?"

The paper stated that "it was rumored yesterday in high government circles that Col Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, commander of the 2d Military Region based in San Pedro Sula in northern Honduras has been selected by the Armed Forces Supreme Council to fill the sensitive post of chief of the highest military corps in the country."

TIEMPO added that "the move, considered routine, in keeping with the constitutional laws of the armed forces would be carried out after the National Constituent Assembly appoints Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia as president of a provisional government with a view to holding within a prudent period of time new elections for a de jure government."

Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia, in addition to being chief of the armed forces, heads the military junta made up of Col Amilcar Zalaya, police commander, and Col Domingo Alvarez Cruz, air force commander.

On Colonel Zelaya and Colonel Alvarez Cruz, TIEMPO stated: "Colonel Zelaya possibly will continue in his post of police commander while Alvarez Cruz will travel abroad to engage in specialization studies."

According to TIEMPO, Colonel Alvarez Cruz would be replaced by Walter Lopez Reyes, the current commander of the Armando Escalon Airbase based in San Pedro Sula.

The paper states that with the appointment of Gustavo Alvarez Martinez as chief of the armed forces, Lt Col Jose A. Bueso Rosa, current commander of the 4th Infantry Batallion based in La Ceiba on the Atlantic coast, would become commander of the 2d Military Region.

Major Pavon told ACAN-EFE that any information on changes in the armed forces is of such importance that it must be announced publicly before it occurs through an official bulletin by this office and that no one had instructed him to do so as yet.

HONDURAN, SALVADORAN MINISTERS TO HOLD PEACE TALKS

PA201614 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 0400 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] Honduran Foreign Minister Eliseo Perez Cadalso will visit Lima, Peru on Tuesday, 27 May, to continue talks aimed at achieving definitive peace with El Salvador. The foreign minister will be accompanied by lawyers Pedro Pineda Madrid, Ramon Balladares Soto and Col Cesar Elvir Sierra, all members of the Honduran negotiating team.

Perez Cadalso will meet in Lima with Dr Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero, mediator of the existing Honduran-Salvadoran conflict, and with his Salvadoran counterpart Fidel Chavez Mena. The meeting had been scheduled for the middle of this month, but was postponed since Chavez was unable to leave his country in view of the situation existing there.

PAPER SAYS SOMOZIST ARMY READY TO ACT IN NICARAGUA

PA200457 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1723 GMT 19 May 80

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 19 May (ACAN-EFE)--"A vast plan to destablize the Nicaraguan regime is being carried out in Honduras and Nicaragua and is supported by broad sectors of the opposition," the Honduran newspaper LA TRIBUNA says today.

The paper says former guardsmen and officials of the Somoza government have formed a force called the National Liberation Army, whose leaders, according to an unofficial report, are operating freely in Tegucigalpa and other main towns in the country.

LA TRIBUNA adds that "reliable sources have said some Hondurans, conservatives and economically well-to-do, are lending their haciendas in the departments of Olancho, Cortes, El Paraiso and Choluteca for the training of personnel, who afterwards leave for Nicaragua to fight against the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN).

LA TRIBUNA inserts in today's edition a leaflet from the National Liberation Front carrying a call to all Nicaraguans.

The paper says that "reliable sources have indicated that the so-called National Liberation Army has bought arms and ammunition on the black market."

Regarding the organization of the Somozist army command, LA TRIBUNA says: "It is made up of a commander and a senior staff and subordinate combat columns which have the following names: Jose Dolores Estrada, Andres Castro, Diriangen, Nicarao , Pedro Joaquin Chamorro and Pedro Emilio Salazar (Commander Bravo)."

The paper says it has learned from confidential sources that three columns are already in Nicaragua and are engaged in sabotage, holding up banks, executing government officials and other activities with which they expect to destabliize the Sandinist government installed in July 1979."

According to LA TRIBUNA, some of the leaders of the organization are Roger Bermudez, retired army officer, who was information and press secretary in Somoza's government; one called Jaime, and another whose last name is Parajon, a former deputy minister and former Managua police deputy commander."

The paper also mentions reports received in Tegucigalpa about a clandestine station, the "Official Voice of the Special Anticommunist Guerrilla Forces" (FESGA), operating in San Pedro Sula, in the northern party of Honduras.

The Nicaraguan newspaper BARRICADA, in its first morning edition yesterday, reported that the station had been dismantled by the Honduran Army as result of an investigation by Col Amilcar Zelaya, police commander and member of the government military junta.

So far nothing has been officially or unofficially reported here about the dismantling of the Voice of FESGA, because we are still receiving its transmissions with messages in code, several newspapers reported today.

The National Liberation Army leaflet, which carries a Nicaraguan flag, says: "Nicaraguans: The desire to free Nicaragua is no longer a wish; today it is a reality. The National Liberation Army is in action. It is made up of Nicaraguan citizens who, inside and outside the country, are aware of the situation in our fatherland, which today is under the absolute domination of communist countries; with the presence of Russians, Cubans and international terrorist organizations such as Al-Fatah, Black September, the Montoneros, the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) and others which are members of the Communist International. We have made the decision to struggle for the liberation of our country, which is today suffering the oppression of communism.

"The National Liberation Army, which was organized to restore freedom in Nicaragua, is democratic, anticommunist and anti-Somozist and guarantees among other things, the following:

"1. Freedom of the press, radio and television currently restricted by the communist Sandinist government.
"2. Revision, study and amendments to the labor laws.
"3. Social security privileges without distinction of classes throughout the country.
"4. Education without indoctrination for all.
"5. Free enterprise.
"6. Economic and technical aid to the peasants.
"7. Support for small industries and commerce.
"8. Trade union freedom.
"9. Basic grain prices for the people.
"10. A general amnesty so that the Nicaraguan family can live together and work to improve the country."

An appeal is made to the Nicaraguan people to cooperate with the National Liberation Army, within their means, to "join the struggle in any of the columns operating in the country, to expel the invaders and traitors of the fatherland."

NICARAGUA

U.S. INTERFERENCE 'UNACCEPTABLE,' SAYS D'ESCOTO

PA162024 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 May 80

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto has described as totally unacceptable the interference by the U.S. Congress in the domestic affairs of Nicaragua when it set conditions for the granting of a loan to be used for the reconstruction. Speaker of the House Thomas O'Neill said earlier this week that the $75 million loan is unlikely to be approved until complete information is available on the Nicaraguan Government junta, where two seats are currently vacant. D'Escoto stressed that we are a sovereign and independent nation and the masters of our own historic destiny, and that neither Tip O'Neill nor any other U.S. Government official will tell us what to do. The only thing achieved by these pressures is the further deterioration of the relations between the two countries, he added during an interview on a local radio station.

D'ESCOTO DISCUSSES PRIESTS' PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS

PA182230 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1500 GMT 18 May 80

[Text] Managua, 18 May (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, who is a Catholic priest, pointed out here that he abides by the "good judgement, equanimity and justice of my superiors," referring to the pastoral issued by the Nicaraguan bishops against the participation of priests in politics.

The pastoral, which expands on the documents of the Second Vatican Council and the conference held in Puebla, Mexico, in which Pope John Paul II was present, insists that "bishops and priests should not participate in politics, although they may encourage and guide Christians in the political obligations."

"I realize that it is not an arbitrary ultimatum and therefore I do not feel I have to quit. That is not the point, nor the way the bishops or the holy pope will act," Father D'Escoto explained.

When asked by a newsman if he would resign, in case the pope should ask him to do so, he said that he would have to resign his post in favor of a layman.

"However, it is a decision I must make when the time comes. It will be up to the government to appoint someone to replace me," he added.

Further on he said that "this is a decision which must be reached after a dialogue. I must say that I have served 20 years as a priest and I have full confidence in my superiors, my congregation and bishops.

"It should be realized that this is not a dispute to favor or oppose the issue, but a justified concern of the bishops who are trying to prevent an emergency situation from turning into a permanent one or becoming the general rule," D'Escoto said.

Several Catholic priests are currently holding important posts in the Nicaraguan Government.

Other priests holding important positions in the government are: Ernesto Cardenal Martinez, culture minister; Father Fernando Cardenal Martinez (Jesuit), coordinator of the National Literacy Crusade; Father Edgard Parrales, assistant director of the Nicaraguan Social Security Institute (INSS); and Father Alvaro Arguello Hurtado (Jesuit), member of the State Council, installed on 4 May and representing the National Clergy Association.

D'ESCOTO, RUIZ LEAVE FOR COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA

PA202344 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1900 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] Two important government officials left today for Colombia and Caracas. Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and Augusto Zamora, a legal advisor at the Foreign Ministry, left for Colombia to attend a meeting on the delimitation of the two countries' fishing areas.

The other important official who left this morning is Cmdr Henry Ruiz, planning minister, who left for Caracas to attend an ordinary meeting of the Latin American Economic System, slated to take place in that country.

COSEP WELCOMES NEW JUNTA MEMBERS' APPOINTMENT

PA201558 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] The Higher Council of Private Enterprise [COSEP] has issued a communique endorsing the appointment of two new members of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction. As has been extensively reported, Dr Rafael Cordova Rivas and Dr Arturo Cruz, both well-known persons, have been asked to join the junta. COSEP held a high-level meeting and released a statement which says: COSEP recognizes the distinction and competence of the new members and it trusts they will be consistent with the principles of loyalty, justice and democracy that they have espoused.

The appointment of Dr Cordova Rivas of the Democratic Conservative Party and Dr Cruz to the junta has been welcomed by the private sector which thus feels it is being fully represented in the Government of National Reconstruction.

CARRION SAYS TWO SOLDIERS KILLED BY FORMER GUARDSMEN

PA202121 Paris AFP in Spanish 1836 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] Managua, 20 May (AFP)--Commander Luis Carrion has reported here that two soldiers of the Sandinist Peoples Army [EPS] were killed and one was wounded in an attack carried out against a Nicaraguan patrol by a group of armed men who entered from Honduran territory.

Commander Carrion said that the group, made up of former National Guardsmen, retreated to Honduran territory after killing the two Nicaraguan soldiers at point-blank. The two soldiers were members of the special force that watches over the northern border region.

Carrion made the announcement during a public event and did not specify when the incident happened and just limited himself to saying that it was recent.

Commander Carrion has repeatedly charged that members of the extinct Somozist guard have at least five training camps in Honduran territory where they are waiting for arms in order to carry out incursions against Nicaragua.

Two months ago the Honduran Government disbanded a camp of former Somozist soldiers in the border region with Nicaragua, south of Tegucigalpa, and since then there have been no reports on new actions by the armed opposition groups in the area.

Meanwhile, EL NUEVO DIARIO reported that it had learned that some 3,500 members of the extinct Somozist guard found refuge in Costa Rican territory.

The newspaper affirmed that Costa Rican Security Minister Juan Jose Echeverria assured the Sandinist government that these guardsmen are being watched very well and that they will not be allowed to go to Nicaragua.

STATE COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT EXPLAINS RESIGNATION

PA171218 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1445 GMT 16 May 80

[Text] San Jose, 16 May (ACAN-EFE)--Jose Francisco Cardenal, vice president of the State Council of Nicaragua, announced his resignation from that post here yesterday and warned that his country is advancing toward an dictatorship of the extreme left.

Cardenal, who represented the Nicaraguan Chamber of Construction in the State Council, left his post on Wednesday and left for Miami via San Jose to participate in a meeting of the Central American Private Sector Federation [FEDEPRICA].

Cardenal issued a long statement in which he explained that he decided to leave Nicaragua, which is "overwhelmed by a situation, which if it materializes, will submerge us again under a horrible dictatorship."

He also said that "the evident irreversible trend of the present Nicaraguan regime toward a rigid and abusive Marxist-Leninist system is obvious and what makes things worse is that social production and political sectors are helping to consolidate this distortion of the true Nicaraguan revolution."

He said some are cooperating in good faith and others are trying to gain time "with the hope that some unexpected event will prevent a catastrophe. These sectors give the system the cooperation and collaboration it urgently needs."

He also said other persons are helping to promote the distortions by means of fraudulent and criminal speculation, "believing that they are deceiving the government by assuming a 'pragmatic' image in order to export whatever resources they can accumulate."

He also protested the installation of the State Council and said the Higher Council of Private Enterprise [COSEP] has acted in the long run as a "shameful pimp."

Cardenal recalled that COSEP established several conditions before participating in the State Council, and that it joined the Council even though these demands were not met. The COSEP representative acted without consulting the organization's directive bodies. He also said that, overwhelmed by COSEP's "strange decision" and exhausted by pressures, he accepted the post at the last moment as representative to the State Council.

He explained his decision by saying that he did it "for disciplinary reasons and so as to not break his group's unity" and because he believed it was "merely a protocol act which would encourage the success of political talks now in progress." He also explained his appointment as vice president by Commander Bayardo Arce, president of the State Council.

He said he had been appointed because it was believed that it would "tie me to the victor's chariot and give the impression of a final agreement with COSEP and, with one blow, weaken any attempt at resistance by the people to the government's dictatorial attitude."

Cardenal's resignation came a few weeks after Violeta Barrios de Chamorro and Alfonso Robelo Callejas resigned for health reasons and in disagreement with the manner in which the State Council had been organized, giving the Sandinist National Liberation Front a simple majority.

Denial by Council Secretary

PA162113 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 May 80

[Text] Hugo Torres Jimenez, secretary of the Nicaraguan State Council, said yesterday afternoon that Jose Francisco Cardenal, vice president of the State Council, has not submitted any resignation to the State Council, which normally met yesterday, and did not receive any resignation from Cardenal. Torres Jimenez said that is strange that Cardenal's document addressed to the Nicaraguans seems to have been written under heavy pressure because it is written in the style of the public documents during Somoza's rule.

Cardenal, president of the Nicaraguan Chamber of Construction, left last Sunday for Costa Rica, after addressing a letter to Higher Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP) directors in which he said that he was leaving "because he could not live in a country ruled by a Marxist-Leninist government." A few days before, Cardenal had been unanimously appointed vice president of the State Council following the recommendation made by State Council President Bayardo Arce.

Espinosa, in a communique issued today, said that it was absurd to say that Cardenal "fled upon learning that he had been elected to the vice presidency of the State Council, when, of his own free will, he attended two sessions of the State Council and accepted the vice presidency." Espinosa also denied Cardenal's statements saying that there are 10,000 Cubans in Nicaragua and that hundreds of Nicaraguans are fighting, with Cuban and presumably USSR support, with the leftist guerrillas in El Salvador and Guatemala.

He denied Cardenal's statement that "Nicaragua is directly and inevitably heading toward a Marxist dictatorial regime" and that "all the leaders of the Nicaraguan Government are communists."

Espinosa also said that it is false that there are 12,000 political prisoners in Nicaragua, as denounced by Cardenal, "in fact, what we have is between 7,000 and 8,000 former members of the abolished Somozist National Guard under arrest. These were men who spread terror, death and destruction in Nicaragua during the final days of the dictatorship."

Denial by Junta Spokesman

PA171607 Paris AFP in Spanish 0229 GMT 17 May 80

[Text] Managua, 16 May (AFP)--Jose Francisco Cardenal, vice president of the Nicaraguan State Council, "has not fled the country and what he told the U.S. Congress regarding the situation in Nicaragua is absolutely false," said Manuel Espinosa, press secretary of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction.

Espinosa referred to everything said by Cardenal last Thursday to a U.S. Congressional Commission, headed by Representative Robert Bauman.

GRANMA REPORTS MARIEL DEPARTURES, ARRIVALS

FL201034 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] Under the title "News From Mariel," the daily GRANMA, official organ of the PCC Central Committee, publishes in the last page of its third edition the following information:

Yesterday, 4,344 antisocials left via this route for the United States. As this edition went to press, 743 vessels from Florida were at this port. Yesterday, for the first time, no vessels arrived in Mariel. The Yankees have blockaded the Florida peninsula with numerous Coast Guard vessels and helicopters, impeding the departure of vessels from there. It has been reported that the cordon extends 300 km. They have achieved a technical success.

In order to calm the people they have also distributed forms in Florida in which they promise that relatives may travel via other routes. But there is no agreement on this and it does not appear that will happen anytime soon. Let us see what happens. However, these technical operations are not as easy as traveling to the moon. Here on earth, and above all in the Caribbean, everything is more difficult to manage. Meanwhile, the sailfish are happy this season. Not a single yacht is moving in Florida.

HAVANA COMMENTS ON RACIAL PROBLEMS IN MIAMI

PA210323 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 May 80

["World Events" commentary]

[Text] Police repression in the United States has increased in the past few days. As usual, the victims of that escalation of violence are the Afro-American citizens. The neighborhoods where blacks live in Miami are enveloped in smoke as a result of fires. In many streets, barricades have been erected and shots can be heard everywhere.

According to observers, similar incidents have not occurred in the United States since the sixties. The magnitude of the racial disturbances has been such that the authorities have implemented a state of emergency in the city and have declared the black ghetto a war zone. Thousands of soldiers and policemen have cordoned off the black district and as a result of indiscriminate police fire and the attacks of armed racist bands, some 20 people have been killed and more than 200 have been injured. In addition, hundreds of people, most of them blacks, have been arrested.

The incidents began last weekend when police attacked thousands of demonstrators who were protesting the sentence dictated by an all-white Tampa jury which declared innocent four policemen who last December beat up and killed Arthur McDuffie, a black small businessman.

On that occasion, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People denounced McDuffie's murder as an example of police violence against blacks and poor citizens in Florida.

According to a report by an investigative commission, McDuffie died from a beating by four policemen rather than from an accidental fall from his motorcycle, as the policemen contended in their report.

Early this year, members of the black community announced in Miami that they would stage protest marches against the judicial court's decision not to charge the four white policemen who killed McDuffie with murder. On that occasion Robert (Singh), director of the human relations board of the Miami community, said that the black community rejected the decision to try the four policemen for unpremeditated rather than premeditated murder, as was fitting in this case.

The brutal police action that led to McDuffie's death and later to the scandalous verdict passed by those who allegedly dispense justice in the United States were the motivating forces behind the Afro-Americans' reaction. But the principal cause of the spontaneous outburst of indignation by Miami's blacks has deeper roots. It is the same cause affecting dark-skinned Americans in all U.S. cities and states: the profound socioeconomic inequalities between blacks and whites, the humiliating discrimination and segregation to which blacks are subjected in the United States, the high unemployment rate among Afro-Americans, the misery in which blacks live in the ghettos destined for them, the abuses of the racists and the arbitrary police actions.

This is how justice is understood in the United States. This is how the Washington government practices the much-touted human rights policy. In short, this is the so-called American way of life.

RISQUET RECEIVES USSR'S GANICHEV, CONSTRUCTION DELEGATION

FL210120 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 May 80

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the party Central Committee Secretariat, has received at the Central Committee's headquarters, the USSR State Committee for Construction Affairs delegation headed by I.A. Ganichev, deputy chairman of the state committee.

The delegation, which also includes N A. Medzmariashvili, minister of construction of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Georgia, and other officials, signed the construction scientific-technical cooperation plan for 1981-85.

Also taking part in the meeting was the vice president of the Council of Ministers and minister of construction in Cuba, Jose Lopez Moreno.

Agreements Signed

FL201214 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] The Cuban Construction Ministry and the USSR State Committee for Construction Affairs--GOSSTROY--yesterday signed in Havana two important scientific and technical cooperation agreements. The signing of the two documents was part of the plan of activities of the visit to Cuba by GOSSTROY Deputy Chairman Ivan Aleksandrovich Ganichev, who heads a Soviet delegation which has visited numerous industrial centers of our country.

Ganichev and Jose Lopez Moreno, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers and minister of construction, first signed a protocol of scientific and technical cooperation.

Statements at Accords Ceremony

FL201828 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] Cuba and the Soviet Union have signed an agreement for scientific-technical cooperation in the construction field for the 1981-85 5-year period and a protocol for the establishment of such cooperation in 1980 and 1981. The agreements were signed by Jose Lopez Moreno, vice president of the Council of Ministers and Cuban minister of construction, and Ivan Aleksandrovich Ganichev, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Construction Affairs. The scientific-technical cooperation for the next 5-year period contains aspects concerning the technical-material base for construction as well as mechanization, exploitation and equipment, among other matters.

[Begin Lopez Moreno recording] The signing of these protocols on scientific-technical cooperation for 1981 to 1985 and the work plan for 1980 and 1981 mark the end of the official visit of the Soviet delegation led by our friend Comrade Ganichev. You have visited our provinces. You have toured our projects. You have seen our progress. But the most important thing is that you have seen the effort which construction workers and technicians are making to build more and with better quality. [applause] [end recording]

[Begin Ganichev recording, in Russian with consecutive Spanish translation] I am completely certain that this protocol, two protocols we have signed. [sentence as heard] We have explained specifically what we must work on and you and I have fulfilled the guidelines of the Soviet-Cuban intergovernmental commission headed by Comrade [Carlos Rafael] Rodriguez for the Cuban side and Comrade Arkhipov for the Soviet side. And we have signed plans covering [the period] up to 1985. I believe that the task now lies primarily in implementing the action we have completed. [end recording]

SRV GENERAL OFFERS MILITARY AID TO HAVANA

FL201251 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] If Cuba requests it, Vietnam's People's Army will fight side by side the Cuban people, Gen (Nan Khan) has stated in a ceremony of solidarity with our country which was held in Hanoi. During the ceremony the firm readiness of the Vietnamese people to fight side by side with the Cubans with arms in hand, if it becomes necessary, against Yankee plots, provocations and aggressions was expressed.

Gen (Nan Khan), deputy chief of the General Political Department of the People's Army, stressed that whenever Cuba requests it, the Vietnamese combatants will come to fight side by side with the Cuban brothers. Several speakers at the ceremony noted Cuba's role as an example of internationalist solidarity with other peoples.

In a speech (Nguyen Than Le), an official of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry, stated: Cuba is a comrade in arms of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea. It has lent an incalculable support and a flawless solidarity to the three Indochinese peoples. Manuel Capaz, charge d'affaires of the Cuban Embassy in Hanoi, stated that in the face of the Yankee campaigns and threats being conducted in collusion with the Chinese expansionists, Cuba expresses its gratitude to Vietnam, its party, government and people for its aid and militant solidarity.

CUBAN-ALGERIAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING CONTINUES

FL210102 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 May 80

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the councils of State and Ministers, has met in Havana with Abdelmadjid Aouchiche, minister of urban planning, construction and housing of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria. The Algerian leader is heading his country's delegation to the first session of the Cuban-Algerian intergovernmental committee being held in this city.

Also participating in the meeting were Levi Farah, government minister for construction abroad, and Raul Barzaga and Bachir Ould-Rouis, Cuban and Algerian ambassadors, respectively. Developments in the committee's session and other topics of interest for Cuba and Algeria were discussed at this friendly meeting.

First Joint Session

FL210107 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 May 80

[Text] The first Cuban-Algerian intergovernmental joint session was held this afternoon at the Construction Ministry. The meeting was chaired, on the Algerian side, by Abdelmadjid Aouchiche, minister of housing, urban planning, and construction and member of the National Liberation Front Central Committee, and by Jose Lopez Moreno, vice president of the Council of Ministers and minister of construction in our country.

This first session is taking place within the framework of economic, scientific-technical and cultural cooperation between Cuba and Algeria. Also participating in the talks were Levi Farah, government minister in charge of Cuban construction abroad, and other Algerian and Cuban officials.

HART TO BULGARIA FOR CULTURE MINISTERS MEETING

FL191900 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1821 GMT 19 May 80

[Text] Armando Hart Davalos, member of the party Politburo and minister of culture, left at dawn today for Moscow on his way to Sofia, Bulgaria, at the head of Cuba's delegation to the 10th meeting of socialist countries' ministers of culture. The meeting will take place 21-28 May. Several topics of interest in the development of culture in socialist nations will be discussed.

The other members of the Cuban delegation are Julio Garcia-Espinosa, vice minister of culture; Carlos Garcia Trapaga, deputy chief of the Education, Culture, and Science Department of the party Central Committee [as heard]; and Lupe Veliz, an official at the Culture Ministry.

Hart Davalos was seen off at the airport by First Vice Minister of Culture Rafael Almeida and other vice ministers and officials.

CEMA MEETING ON PAPER PRODUCTION TO CONVENE IN HAVANA

FL162353 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 May 80

[Text] The ninth meeting of the Council of Plenipotentiaries for the Technological Optimization of the CEMA Production of Cellulose and Paper will be held in Cuba from 19 to 24 May of this year. This important meeting of that CEMA body, which is responsible for coordinating the scientific and technical activity in the field of production of pulp, paper and cardboard, will be attended by delegations from the USSR, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, the GDR, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Cuba.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO SRV--The Cuban Council of State has designated Comrade Faure Chomon Mediavilla ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 May 80 FL]

SUGAR HARVEST NEWS--Of the 148 sugar mills which participated in the 1980 harvest, only 46 are still grinding. The provinces of Villa Clara and Cienfuegos have finished grinding operations in the present harvest. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 May 80 FL]

CARIBBEAN TECHNOCRATS OPEN MEETING IN BARBADOS

FL191432 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 19 May 80

[Text] Technocrats from across the Caribbean today begin 3 days of talks in Bridgetown, Barbados, aimed at formulating an international strategy for the region's development in 1980. The meeting, which is being held under the auspices of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America, will be officially opened by the external affairs minister of Barbados, Henry Forde. Delegates have been drawn from CARICOM countries, Cuba, Suriname, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. There will also be several persons participating in an individual capacity.

BAHAMAS

FURTHER DETAILS ON PINDLING STATEMENT ON SINKING

FL201510 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 20 May 80

[Excerpts] The May 10th weekend armed aggression by Cuba against the Bahamas was recounted by Prime Minister Pindling in graphic detail at a news conference yesterday. At a briefing attended by members of the legislature, including the opposition, the prime minister noted that the arrested Cubans' poaching in Bahamian waters began in 1971 and six of the fishermen arrested on May 10th had been arrested in the 1971 incident. In 1971, another poaching arrest of Cuban fishermen took place, and it was disclosed by the prime minister that the Cuban Government had given the fishermen arrested in the 1971 incident permission to fish in the Bahamas.

[Begin Pindling recording] Documents found on board the (?arrested) vessels at the time of the arrest proved conclusively that the Republic of Cuba had issued licenses to their fishermen to fish in the Bahamas. I can and do produce to you now copies of several licenses issued by the National Institute of Fishing of the Republic of Cuba to its fishermen. It should be noted that the area in which fishing is authorized by the National Institute of Fishing is Zone No 129. What is zone No 129? Where is Zone No 129? These questions are answered on the license issued to the Guerrillero [Cuban fishing boat] in January 1974 by the Cuban National Institute of Fishing. It clearly identifies Zone No 129 as the Bahamas. On this license the word Bahamas is written in addition to the No 129. There can be and must be no doubt therefore that it is the clear and established policy of the government of the Republic of Cuba to authorize its fishermen to fish in the Bahamas.

It also follows that there can be no doubt that the Cuban Government actually knew that their fishermen were in fact fishing in the Bahamas. At 1335 hours on Friday the 18th of February 1974 the three fishing vessels, [name indistinct] 18, the Guerrillero and the Sendero 27, were escorted out of Bahamian waters by a Bahamas patrol boat and handed over to Cuban Coast Guard vessel No 309, some 3 miles east of Nuevitas light. Nuevitas is a port in Cuba. This means that the Cubans' ship documents found on board the (?arrested) vessels at the time of the arrest prove conclusively that the Republic of Cuba had issued licenses to their fishermen to fish in the Bahamas.

The Bahamas has every intention of pursuing its case in the Security Council of the United Nations should the Republic of Cuba not respond favorably to the demands made upon it by the Government of the Bahamas.

The selection of a member of the Security Council to sponsor a resolution is a matter of diplomatic practice. It would not be possible for you to assess those tactics either from the outside. Jamaica is a fellow Caribbean country. It is a member of the Commonwealth and it happens to have been the first Caribbean country on the Security Council. We as a sister Caribbean country would Commonwealth-wise a d internationally be expected to first approach Jamaica, give Jamaica the first option. I think it would be a mistake for anyone to prejudge any other country, no matter what we might think their respective allegiances or alliances might be, on what in the end might turn out to be a very strong moral case. We would have to see Jamaica turn us down. Should Jamaica turn us down, then of course, that puts Jamaica in a bit of a jam too, doesn't it? We have other options open to us. We have already made certain other initiatives with members of the Security Council and, therefore, we know what our next move will be. [end recording]

BARBADOS

FORDE ISSUES STATEMENT ON BAHAMIAN BOAT SINKING

FL201525 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 16 May 80 p 1

[Excerpts] The Barbados Government has called on Cuba to accept full responsibility for the sinking of a Bahamian patrol boat by Cuban planes last Saturday evening.

The incident resulted in the death of four Bahamians.

In a tersely-worded statement, external affairs minister, Mr. Henry Forde, also urged Cuba to make full reparation and to cease the subterfuge that a third party was involved.

Mr. Forde's statement came after Cabinet met yesterday to consider the incident and its future relations with Cuba.

His full statement read:

"On Saturday May 10, Cuban war planes bombed and sank a Bahamas defense vessel, killing four members of the Bahamas Coast Guard.

"The sequence of events surrounding this regrettable incident clearly indicates that the Cuban action constitutes a serious breach of international law and a grave act of aggression against the territorial sovereignty of the Bahamas, a nation which is historically, culturally and economically a sister member of the Caribbean family of nations.

"The Bahamas Government, in the face of this outrage, had demanded an explanation, an apology, reparation for the damage and loss, and guarantees that similar wanton acts will not be repeated.

"Cuba, whilst expressing regret at the loss of lives, has sought to explain its conduct on the basis of alleged third party involvement of the C.I.A.

"The Government of the Bahamas has every right to protect the country's territorial waters and its fishing rights.

"In pursuing its acts of aggression on Ragged Island, Cuba has shown scant regard for the sovereignty of the Bahamas over its air space and land mass.

"Unauthorized entry, such as occurred, is a gross violation of the territorial rights of the Bahamas and shows arrogant disrespect for the rights of others.

"The implication that a third party was involved adds further insult to injury and is a clear affront to the sovereignty and integrity of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and the good sense of the Caribbean family.

"The Government of Barbados is satisfied with the sequence of events as presented by the Government of the Bahamas. It therefore strongly expresses its support for the claims of the Government of the Bahamas and sympathy to the family of those who were so wantonly destroyed.

"The Government of Barbados calls on Cuba to accept full responsibility for its action, to make full reparation and to cease the subterfuge that a third party was involved. Barbados calls on Cuba to contribute to an atmosphere in which the matter can be swiftly and amicably settled.

"It is of vital importance that Caribbean countries should not find themselves as victims of aggressive and illegal behavior of super-powers. Barbados expresses the hope that an early and peaceful solution on the issue will be found."

DOMINICA

CUBAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS NONALIGNED AID

FL161853 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1805 GMT 16 May 80

[Text] Cuban Ambassador to Dominca Julian Torres Rizo has presented to the Government of Dominica a check in the amount of $25,000. This is a donation from the Government of Cyprus as a nonaligned country for rebuilding that Caribbean island. Dominica's Finance Minister Michael Douglas accepted the check from the Cuban ambassador. This amount represents the Cypriot contribution to the special fund for aid to Dominica which was created during the sixth nonaligned countries summit conference. The fund, which is being used for rebuilding the island after it was demolished by Hurricane David last August, so far has received contributions from Sri Lanka, Cuba, Kuwait, Syria, Libya, Algeria, Zambia, San Marino and Cyprus.

JAMAICA

ARSON SUSPECTED IN PENSIONERS HOME FIRE

FL201508 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 20 May 80

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Michael Manley has ordered a speedy investigation into the cause of this morning's fire at the (Eventide) Home on (Flagler) Road. The fire claimed the lives of nearly 180 adults who occupied the wooden building. And in a reaction to the disaster Prime Minister Manley expressed shock at the fire:

[Begin Manley recording in progress] With the shock and appall learned of the terrible disaster that has happened at the (Eventide) Home. I am sick at heart to think that nearly 200 helpless old people and children have died in this horrible way. What is even more disturbing is that first reports from the security forces indicate strongly that this may have been the work of arsonists. If this is so, it will represent a crime against humanity with no equal in our history. I am assured by the commissioner of police that he has already started the most thorough investigation to determine the cause of the fire.

I have instructed that no effort must be spared to have this investigation completed with maximum speed. The government, of course, is making arrangements for rehousing survivors of the fire and special arrangements are being made for the children. My deepest sympathy goes to the relatives of the victims of this terrible disaster. [end recording]

Death Toll Mounts

FL201803 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1730 GMT 20 May 80

[Excerpt] The charred remains of over 70 people have so far been taken from the rubble left in the wake of the huge fire at the (Eventide) Home this morning. We now join the JBC's [Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation] (Monica Hawthorne Campbell) who visited the scene:

[(Hawthorne Campbell)] The latest reports are that 157 people are feared to have died this morning. Thirty-three were rescued by the fire brigade [words indistinct] while the nursing staff had earlier rescued a number of others who were trapped and they were sent to the hospital. No children have perished in the blaze. The two-story wooden building housed the women's block with some 204 inmates, the majority of whom were disabled. According to the reports, the fire started shortly after 1 this morning in the eastern section of the building. Staffers were unable to alert the fire brigade immediately as the telephone lines were out.

The firemen have not established the cause of the fire as they say the building had been too badly gutted by the time they reached the scene. However, speculations rise that it was the work of arsonists. Someof the workers told JBC News that they received threats from last week that the building was going to be burned out. As a result of this and the fire this morning, preparations are now being made to evacuate the other major wooden building on the compound that houses the (?men's) ward. A number of civic groups and organizations are already on the scene to aid those who have been rescued and they are assisting in the temporary relocation of the patients. Prime Minister Manley, Deputy Prime Minister P. J. Patterson, the ministers of national security, justice, and local government, the major and other [words indistinct] officials, as well as the MP for the area, Mr Tony Spaulding, were on the scene from early this morning. Mr Manley expressed shock at the situation. [end report]

[Begin Manley recording] This is clearly the most terrible and tragic disaster probably in Jamaica's history. And the whole nation will be (?utterly) shocked and horrified by what has taken place. I myself am sick at heart to think of all the poor old women trapped in that situation. It appears that the disaster has occurred in the women's ward. There were 203 [as heard] occupants of that ward. So far, only 33 have been accounted for as surviving. Indications are that the actual loss of life may be anything from perhaps 150 to 170. An earlier report that had indicated that children might also have perished is not actually the case. Apparently, the children had been in a neighboring ward and had been evacuated to the police station [words indistinct] when the fire broke out.

The security forces tell me that they cannot rule out the possibility that it may have been arson and are carrying out already the most intensive investigation to try to establish the cause of the fire. If it was arson, it would really have to rank as a crime against humanity without parallel in our history. [end recording]

Briefs

NEW VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR--The new Venezuelan ambassador to Jamaica is Dr Abdelkader Marquez Garcia who arrived last week and is to present his credentials today. Ambassador Marquez Garcia was born in Merida, Venezuela on July 29, 1922. [Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 15 May 80 p 13]